Stikine Country Protected Areas

~ Draft Management Direction ~

PUBLIC COMMENTS

~ Summary Report ~

Environmental Stewardship Division
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Skeena Region

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Public Comment Process

This report summarizes public input received in the second round of open houses and workshops on draft management direction for the Stikine Country Protected Areas[1]. The report was prepared by Meredith and Associates for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection. The planning process for the Stikine Country Protected Areas is now in its final stages following work over the past two years.

The next step will be the preparation of the full draft of the management plan. This is expected to be complete by November 2002 and will be made available for public comment. Once comments are received and incorporated into the plan, it will be submitted for government approval in the December to January period.

In undertaking the public input phase of the development of the Stikine Country Protected Areas – Draft Management Direction document, two main methodologies were utilized in the effort to effectively distribute the draft planning document and the public comment workbook:

- A series of 4 public planning workshops (including open houses). These were held in Terrace, Dease Lake, Smithers and Vancouver;
- The distribution of Newsletter Number 3 – Draft Management Direction for the Stikine Country Protected Areas (SCPA) as well as the Public Comment Booklet. This was achieved through:
  - Direct distribution to existing contacts;
  - The availability to personally collect the documents from the Smithers BC Parks office; and
  - The posting of both documents on the BC Parks web page as .pdf documents.

Total Public Participation

During the planning workshops, a total of forty-three (43) individuals attended and provided comments. Specifically, each workshop attracted the following participants:

- Dease Lake – 7 participants;
- Terrace – 4 participants;
- Smithers – 24 participants; and
- Vancouver – 8 participants.

A number of people also attended just the open houses – which followed each workshop.

Surveys & Written Submissions

A total of thirty-five (35) Public Comment Booklets, and a total of thirty-six (36) written responses (letters) were returned to the BC Parks – Skeena District office. The residence of survey and/or written submissions is broken down as follows:

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[1] Public workshops and summary report prepared by: MEREDITH & ASSOCIATES – Greg Meredith, Principal, Smithers, BC

[2] http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/stikine/stikine_updates.htm

Survey Response Summary Chart

General management Directions		Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %
Managing the System of Protected Areas		37.12	54.28	5.71	2.86
Managing Ecosystems		41.18	47.06	5.89	5.89
Managing with the Community	First Nations	42.86	45.71	8.57	2.86
	Local Communities, Stakeholders & Public	45.71	42.86	8.57	2.86
	Managing Cultural Heritage Values	29.41	50.00	17.65	2.94
Land & Geology		58.82	32.35	5.88	2.94
Water		65.71	28.57	5.88	2.94
Vegetation		57.14	37.14	2.86	2.86
Wildlife		60.00	34.29	2.86	2.86
Habitat Management		65.71	25.71	5.71	2.86
Population Management		22.22	44.44	27.78	5.56
Rare and Sensitive Species		46.67	43.33	6.67	3.33
Wildlife Movements		52.78	36.11	5.56	2.77
	Wildlife/Human Interactions	61.77	32.25	2.94	2.94
Aquatics		45.71	40.00	11.42	2.86
Scientific Research and Education		54.29	40.00	2.86	2.86
Access	Floatplanes	40.00	48.57	5.71	5.71
	Roads	29.41	52.94	11.76	5.89
	Snowmobiles	28.57	48.57	11.42	11.42
Facilities	Structures	30.30	51.52	12.12	6.06
	Trails, Routes and Campsites	47.06	44.12	5.88	2.94
Recreation	General Management Direction	50.00	38.24	8.82	2.94
	Backcountry hiking & Mountaineering	58.82	32.35	5.88	2.94
	Motorboating	20.59	55.88	8.82	14.71
	Float Craft	34.29	51.43	11.43	2.86
	Winter Recreation	28.57	45.71	17.14	8.57
	Horse Use & Pack Animals	29.73	59.46	8.11	2.70
	Other Recreational Uses	60.00	25.71	5.71	8.57
Commercial Recreational Opportunity and Tenure Management	GMD	5.88	50.00	26.47	14.71
	List of Potential Commercial Opportunities	0.00	43.75	40.63	15.53
Zoning and Management Directions		14.84	55.56	18.52	11.11
Overall Agreement Status		**41.78**	**43.16**	**10.49**	**5.45**

In total, about 85% of all respondents either agree or strongly agree to the Draft Management Direction statements & objectives.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION QUESTIONS

1 Managing the System of Protected Areas

General Management Direction

Combined, the Stikine Country Protected Areas offer a wide range of natural, cultural and recreational features that are representative of northern boreal landscapes. The Stikine Country Protected Areas will be managed as a system of protected areas rather than as individual protected areas. The conservation and recreation mandates of BC Parks will be applied to the system as a whole, focusing conservation management where appropriate and focusing recreational activities where appropriate within the system.

Objective:

- *To conserve natural and cultural values in the Stikine Country Protected Area System while allowing appropriate recreational activities to occur.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree	**37.12%**	**Agree**	**54.29%**	**Disagree**	**5.71%**	**Strongly Disagree**	**2.86%**

Public Comments:

- Re: Vision Statement - I did not find the "Vision" statement to be a "vision" statement at all. The 13 bullets, in most instances, simply make a statement about the current state of affairs (eg. Bullet 2: "Ecosystems...evolve within a natural range of variability. Bullet 4: Stikine Country PA's form the heartland.....) I envision a "Vision for the Future State of SCPA" to articulate what the area WILL BE like in the future (i.e. The Stikine CPA's will remain one of the most spectacular...., The Stikine CPA's will continue to form the heartland.....).
- Strongly support conservation as the paramount objective
  - Recreation must only occur when natural & cultural values are not adversely affected.
- Agree – BUT – Mt. Edziza and Gladys Lake/Spatsizi are 2 different areas, each with their own particular characteristics. They should therefore be managed as separate packages – regardless of any 'staff shortages'.
- I support a conservation approach
  - Species & habitat protection over development..
- Strongly agree with conservation of natural values, but have concerns about what the definition of "appropriate" recreational activities is?
  - I hope that the definition is conservative – some recreational activities may seem appropriate to most people, but in reality have significant negative impacts on natural ecosystems e.g.: trail riding (horses & bikes)
- Biological diversity, however, should always take precedence over recreational values.
- It needs to be stated that conservation will have priority over recreation where there is a conflict between the two.

- Natural Environment Zone Rules should apply.
- The dual mandate of BC Parks has been, and will continue to be, problematic.
    - Stikine Country Parks are an instructive example of how conservation values & goals can be compromised by recreational goals mixed with political ideology.
- Remove the word "appropriate" from the objective statement.
- Conservation should be the priority in this system. Some recreational activities could be allowed close to roads – otherwise, the parks should be managed for wilderness quality.
- There should be explicit recognition of the predominant importance of conservation management over recreational activity.
- Inventory data is most important and the provincial government must ensure resources are available to BC Parks staff to implement.
- Need to better define terms such as "natural and cultural values". The GMD is:
    - Silent on the psychology of nature appreciation and on the role of nature in BC's Euro Canadian culture.
- Should be clear that the wilderness & its critters belong to British Columbians – this should be clearly stated.
- Providing recreation opportunities are carefully monitored – few, if any, new permanent structures.
- Parks must maintain the flexibility to manage conservation & recreation activities on a region or area basis.
- Hunting should not be considered as part of recreation activity.
- Recreational activities should include snowmobile and ATV's – so the general public can access the parks – not just the elite.
- The inclusion of "cultural values" is problematic ✍ perhaps change wording to "artefacts and historical activities"?
    - For example, my cultural value is to exploit to the limit! – this is incompatible with the parks objectives.

2 Managing Ecosystems

General Management Direction

The Spatsizi Ecosystem and the Mt. Edziza Ecosystem provide a framework for ecological management within the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Ecological issues in protected areas and portions of protected areas west of Highway 37 will be managed as one unit within the context of the Mt. Edziza Ecosystem. Ecological issues in protected areas and portions of protected areas east of Highway 37 will be managed as one unit within the context of the Spatsizi Ecosystem.

Do you agree with the general management direction?

Strongly Agree 41.18%	**Agree 47.06%**	**Disagree 5.89%**	**Strongly Disagree 5.89%**

Public Comments:

- Page 9. I can appreciate how the Stikine Ecosystem was delineated based on the Spatsizi Caribou population but not the Edziza Ecosystem. The Edziza caribou herd is very small and it's range encompasses only a fraction of the "Mt. Edziza Ecosystem. How could they have been used to outline the Edziza Ecosystem? I am wondering why there is a need to mention caribou at all. You are separating the two areas for MANAGEMENT" purposes which is an administrative tool, rather than a biological (or caribou) tool. Given the separation of the two areas, I will assume that management will differ? If there isn't, then there is no need to identify two areas.
- Must minimize human impact
- Gladys Lake Reserve must be managed with higher standards than surrounding park lands
- Need undisturbed benchmarks
- The highway seems a funny way to divide ecosystems?
- Must take into consideration the wildlife corridors between the 2 systems.
- Strongly agree, unless there is found to be links between the areas that dictate management as one system.
- Ninguinsaw ER & Lava Forks are not really part of the Mt. Edziza greater ecosystem ✍ what about High Tuya Lake?
    - It is unwise to put so much emphasis on Caribou – ecosystem management is much more than Caribou management (but it is a good 'focal species')
- Manage the area as one at arm's length
- Better to manage as a unit, than as individual protected areas.
- This is very important – we do not want to create "islands".
- The definition of 'ecosystem" provided here is unsatisfactory – it is largely circular – a system is a system.
- I agree if Mt. Edziza has higher protection from commercialization and recreation.
    - No commercial fishing
    - Limited air access
    - Little helicopter access (Park use only).

3 Managing with the Community

3.1 First Nations

General Management Direction

BC Parks will work with First Nations to ensure that aboriginal and treaty rights are accommodated and that First Nations' interests are fully considered in management of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

Objective:

- *To ensure that ministry and government policy on consultation with First Nations is implemented.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 42.86	Agree 45.71	Disagree 8.57	Strongly Disagree 2.86

Public Comments:

- Page 10. There is a commitment to consult on any activities that have the POTENTIAL to infringe on aboriginal rights. A native group could argue that just about anything could potentially have an impact. Cut down a tree for firewood and have you "infringed" on their right to be able to get firewood? Perhaps absurd, but they are using a similar argument with regard to hunting. (Licensed hunters shoot too many bulls, this infringes on their ability to shoot bulls and therefore they must shoot cows!).
- Page 10. A copy of the Tahltan/BC Parks Agreement needs to be appended to the document. Does it contain wording that might be contrary to the contents of the draft Management Direction?
- Page 10. I understand that there is other wording around the level of input from the FN's and the other stakeholders. I certainly felt that the draft reflected a much higher priority for FN's (i.e. Parks will consult and work with FN's versus Parks will ensure that local communities have an opportunity to provide advice.).
- Fine to consult and work with FN, but this effort should be proportional to other stakeholders and user groups.
- Agree in so far as FN interests do not pose a threat to the integrity of the ecosystems.
- Believe we should work towards one rule or set of laws for everyone – including special interest groups &/or FN.
- "fully considered" should read as "considered".
    - Do not agree that "…ministry & government policy" should be implemented – when it is unclear what the policy is!
    - Perhaps reference should be made to legal & judicial requirements?
- Tahltan should be encouraged to develop a true sense of "ownership" & pride in the park system.
- FN approval of the park planning process should be exactly the same as non-native approval.
- Do not think the objective fits with the GMD – the government is currently undermining the policy expressed in the GMD. The objective and the GMD are probably contradictory.
- Change wording in GMD from "accommodated" to "honoured".

- Consultation should not mean "…catered to" – rules should be applied to all without special exceptions unless a 'negotiated treaty right' is involved.
- In GMD – "…fully considered" poor wording ✍ change to "…an important consideration".
- Exclusive rights or privileges beyond what is already happening should not be granted without due process.
- Agree – provided BC Parks accepts that FN "traditional" management ideas should be based on a time of low impact due to use of horses (not motorized vehicles) and their original hunting methods (i.e.: very few guns).
    - Even some of the FN ideas or desires may be damaging.
- Providing they are not allowed to block roads or other access for non-first nations.

3.2 Local Communities, Stakeholders and the Public

General Management Direction

BC Parks will work with local communities, stakeholders and the public to ensure that there are ongoing opportunities to provide advice on park management and to receive updates on park related information.

Objective:

- ***To foster communication between BC Parks and local communities, stakeholders and the public on management and opportunities in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 45.71	**Agree 42.86**	**Disagree 8.57**	**Strongly Disagree 2.86**

Public Comments:

- Agree with consultation and communication between all parties but think that the weight placed on meeting in larger urban areas (Vancouver) should be balanced with the rural community input – to balance-out the findings of the actual users of these areas.
- Agree with fostering communication, but not just with local communities ✍ BC Parks is accountable to the people of BC and should be reporting to and updating & soliciting input from all residents.
- Perhaps change the title of this section to just "Stakeholders" as communities and public are stakeholders as well.
- Conservation should continue to be the priority.
- Local buy-in is important – but not to the detriment of conservation management.
- Maintain a full time and seasonal staff presence in Dease Lake. Consult with all stakeholders periodically to discuss new issues, ideas and changes.
- It should be stated clearly that provincial parks are the heritage and property of all British Columbians and local views about parks must always be considered with due reference to the views of all other citizens of the province.
- BC Parks serve the wider world – our wilderness has global significance that should not be compromised by short-term profiteering.
- Change wording in GMD to add "and that any agreements are honoured" to the end.
- Input from 'other BC residents' is important.

- Commercial interests should not be allowed tenures that exclude non-paying public or allowed access the public is denied.
- Self interests need to be considered and suspect at times. Parks belong to all BC residents, not just FN, local communities or commercial interests.
- I feel 'northerners' have a much better feel for the management of northern parks. Vancouver residents do not have the same outlook or understanding
- Define "public" as one of BC's and Canada's largest and most unique protected areas – interested parties may not be local.
- I believe that all the decisions are made before anything is presented to the general public.

3.3 Managing Cultural Heritage Values

General Management Direction

Protecting cultural heritage values is an important priority in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.

Objectives:

- *To manage and conserve cultural/ heritage values.*
- *To facilitate the exercise of aboriginal rights and reconnection of First Nations to the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*
- *To increase public and visitor awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 29.41	Agree 50.00	Disagree 17.65	Strongly Disagree 2.94

Public Comments:

- Agree in principle, but some areas need to be set aside from any/all human interference.
- I support this – but would not support a major development in the park system, even if developed by the First Nations.
- Cultural/heritage sites should be identified, but not a lot of money (resources) spent on them.
    - Conservation of these sites should be funded by the special interest groups.
- The thrust of the message to the public should reflect the fragility of the ecosystems within the protected area system and the need to preserve & protect the ecosystem.
- Facilities that support FN activities should be directed outside the protected areas if possible.
- Protected areas are for all BC, Canadian citizens & visitors special interests should not override any other user groups or allow special access or use by individual groups.
- 2nd objective should be moved to the GMD for First Nations (#3).
- This is a noble and commendable management direction
- Why is protecting Native cultural values / heritage a concern & cost to the public? Let the Tahltans do it themselves – it is not the job of parks.
- So long as they are not given any special rights i.e.: hunting.
- Equal rights for all people.

4 Land & Geology

General Management Direction

The landforms and geologic features of the Stikine Country protected areas provide the structural definition that shapes the Spatsizi and Mt. Edziza greater ecosystems. Conservation of significant geologic features will focus on interpretation and protection from physical disturbance by humans.

Objective:

- *To protect the structural and functional integrity of significant geologic features.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree	**58.82**	**Agree**	**32.35**	**Disagree**	**5.88**	**Strongly Disagree**	**2.94**

Public Comments:

- The "interpretation" must focus on preventing physical disturbance & should not be an end in itself – at least on site
- Strongly agree!!
- Would be good to identify and post these sites but any future action should only be taken if there is obvious damage occurring.
- With any access there will occur minor physical disturbance (horses, rafts, boats) but major changes to the assess or landscape should be protected.
    - Keep this as an area which is governed by Natural Environment Zone rules with access for all user groups.
- ALL of Mt. Edziza is a nationally & internationally significant geological feature – not just the cinder cones.
    - The Grand Canyon of the Stikine is also a significant geological feature, as are fossil beds and mineral licks in Spatsizi Park.
- What is "functional integrity" of a cinder cone?
    - Why not encourage people who want to walk from Kakiddi Lakes?
- All important geological features should be protected.
- Management of hot springs should be sensitive to the physical feature.
- Maintain the ban on helicopter landings on cinder cones and implement ban on landings at any of the hot springs.
- Mining should be prohibited within the parks.
    - Should promote geological splendour of region.
- Need to manage recreational impacts.
    - No motorized use (ATV, snowmobiles, etc.)
    - Manage horse use tightly in sensitive areas.
- If you do not want physical disturbance from humans – don't advertise what is out there.
- Yes, I think that we can have access and use of the parks without physical disturbance.
- I think that you are trying to say "…historical aboriginal activities & sites and historical European sites".

5 Water

General Management Direction

Water quality, quantity and flow will continue to be regulated by natural events. Recreational and commercial use in the protected area system will be managed to ensure impacts to natural water quality are negligible.

Objective:

- *To protect and maintain the natural quality, quantity and flow of rivers, creeks and lakes in the Stikine Country Protected Areas within their natural range of variability.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 65.71	**Agree 28.57**	**Disagree 5.88**	**Strongly Disagree 2.94**

Public Comments:

- A possible mining road in the Edziza area is a very questionable initiative.
- Road and bridge development in the Pitman and Chukachida area is also very questionable.
- Are there any plans to clean-up visible mess at outlet of Black Fox Creek (where it enters Cold Fish Lake)? one wonders what is at the bottom of Cold Fish Lake and what impact it may have already had on the aquatic ecosystem!?
- Leave it to nature. Shouldn't require any management.
- Over regulation of access will allow equal access.
    - Agree that must protect water quality but remember that a large number of these rivers flush naturally.
    - Do not feel that river rafting, jet boating or aircraft access have a more lasting effect than horses have had in the past.
- Agree, BUT reference to bridges/mining road crossings of the Pitman & Chukachida should be deleted – also the reference to road access to the "Mt. Edziza Zone".
    - There is no need to enshrine the *possibility* of mining roads within parks (in any park management documents). The possibility exists virtually anywhere in BC, given the ascendancy of the Mines Act.
    - It is ill-advised to legitimize an unacceptable, non-conforming – potential activity.
    - Disagree with the LRMP decision about the "Mt. Edziza Zone".
- Must ensure that industrial activity outside park boundaries no affect water quality within parks.
- I agree, however I believe that the GMD should say something about baselines, indicators and monitoring.
- Riverboat fuel storage can be a problem. Maybe steel containers only with clear identification of owner – any fuel left behind should be confiscated.
- Do you know how much laundry, showers, etc. gets done at guide camps? Do you manage the impacts of this?
- No fuel storage within (x) meters of rivers or waterways.
- Any hydroelectric development of the Stikine would be unacceptable!

6 Vegetation

General Management Direction

Natural disturbances such as fire, forest insects, wind and forest diseases are considered essential ecosystem components contributing to the vegetation landscape and natural ecosystem functioning. The Stikine Country Protected Areas system is large enough to accommodate natural disturbance events within the system. Vegetation management will focus on maintaining natural disturbance events and minimizing impacts of human activities.

Objectives:

- *To maintain and monitor naturally occurring vegetation patterns and natural disturbance events.*
- *To manage vegetation features and disturbances within a larger regional context.*
- *To protect rare and sensitive plants and plant communities.*
- *To minimize human disturbance to native plants and plant communities.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 57.14	**Agree 37.14**	**Disagree 2.86**	**Strongly Disagree 2.86**

Public Comments:

- Wide access to horses – especially in alpine areas – is very damaging to vegetation both by physical disturbance & introduction of weeds
  - Needs to be reduced in some areas
  - Should not be allowed in Gladys Lake Reserve
  - Minimized around Cold Fish Lake
- Regulations & management prescriptions must be developed with meaningful consultation with the licensed guide outfitters operating within the park system.
- What about human-caused events like fire? – or, foreign species introduction?
  - What if the BCFS want fire management?
- Agree, BUT – would like to know more about what is meant by "protected area fire management objectives" (p. 17)?
  - Also, how are noxious weeds & insect outbreaks to be 'managed'? what method for elimination of noxious weeds? what method for 'control' of insect outbreaks?
- Monitoring should be the only activity – at least in the short term.
- The GMD is largely about disturbance regime and the role of natural disturbances.
  - Disturbance regime & range of acceptable variability is an over-achieving GMD.
  - need a separate GMD about vegetation.
  - Need to add objective: 'Evaluate and restore the role of fire in these ecosystems.
  - Both Edziza & Spatsizi need a proper inventory and study of rare/sensitive plant species & communities – not just the new or additional protected areas.
- Any Pine beetle strategy should speak of controlled burns, not logging.
- There should be no restriction to human use of the area.
- Need more information on rare & sensitive species.
- Controlled burns should never be done to "enhance wildlife feed", or for any other reason.
- Change wording of 1st objective to include "within the range of natural variability" as a guide to when to get concerned about fire suppression.

- This GMD should make some attempt to define what it means by "natural" – naturalness is currently a very contested topic in research on park planning and management.
    - Failure to acknowledge the complexities of the matter leaves this GMD open to explosive interpretation in the future.
- Surveys required to fully document botanical richness of the areas – many not documented
- Picking wildflowers is illegal.
- Re: objective #2 – pine beetle or fire moving out of a Park should be controlled.
- I fear the last objective will really mean – no entry, go away!
- Strongly agree BUT – no human intervention in Ecoreserves.
- Timelines should be attached to the action items.

7 Wildlife

General Management Direction

The priority of wildlife management in the Stikine Country Protected Areas is to maintain representative large-mammal predator-prey systems in a healthy and viable state, allowing for natural fluctuations in wildlife populations. Two large mammal predator-prey systems are recognized within the Stikine Country Protected Areas: one centred in the Spatsizi Ecosystem; and one centred in the Mt. Edziza Ecosystem.

Objective:

- ***To maintain naturally occurring, viable large mammal predator-prey systems in the Stikine Country Protected Areas in a mostly natural state.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 60.00	**Agree 34.29**	**Disagree 2.86**	**Strongly Disagree 2.86**

Public Comments:

- Why is the word "mostly" in this objective statement?
    - No mention of hunting – should be one of the actions.
    - Do we really have good inventories of what #'s of animals are?
    - How is hunting and other recreation activities impacting populations?
- To maintain the "most natural state" – precludes, I hope, any expansion of hunting in these two ecosystems.
- Predator control should be monitored & numbers kept low – to allow wildlife herds to grow.
- The *precautionary principle* should be part of this GMD.
- Hunting must be kept within ecosystem tolerance limits, rather than populations being maintained at hunter demand levels.
- Wildlife populations must be allowed to fluctuate naturally.
- Maintain the present status of Gladys Lake ER – no fires, no camping, no horses.
- Providing it doesn't limit all access just to protect wildlife – people should not be shut out.
- The eventual elimination of hunting in Spatsizi Park should be a long-term goal.
- In natural predator-prey cycles are not free to occur in parks, then where can we study nature systems free of human influences?
- No hunting in parks.

- What does "…maintain representative large-mammal predator-prey systems"? I fear this means less (or no) hunting.
- Must be managed in conjunction with areas outside Park boundaries.
- Traditional activities must remain (trapping, hunting, angling).
- Need to protect the genetic gene pool & need to preserve wildlife – but continue to allow hunting with highly managed protocol.
- An ungulate enhancement program should be considered if predator packs get too large and out of control. Increase L.G.H. permits on predators when necessary.
- Further protected areas and more stringent conservation policies may be required.
- Poaching for trophies and animal parts will be a problem and should be diligently pursued and ruthlessly enforced.
- Some consideration of the importance of wildlife as food for northern families should be given.
- Timelines should be attached to the action items.
- Do not believe that any guide-outfitting or packing territories should be owned by foreign nationals.

8 Habitat Management

General Management Direction

Vegetation in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system is in a largely natural state; therefore, natural disturbances will be the main processes driving wildlife habitat dynamics in the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Habitat management for individual species will be secondary to management of an overall natural wildlife habitat mosaic. Acquiring more information on distribution and quality of wildlife habitat throughout the system is a high priority.

Objectives:

- ***To manage wildlife habitat as part of a natural vegetation mosaic driven by natural disturbances.***
- ***To identify significant wildlife habitat.***
- ***To protect critical or sensitive habitat from human disturbance.***
- ***To protect rare/sensitive species habitats from human disturbance.***
- ***To maintain important caribou ranges to contribute to conservation of caribou in British Columbia.***
- ***To incorporate First Nations traditional knowledge in wildlife habitat management.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree	**65.71**	**Agree**	**25.71**	**Disagree**	**5.71**	**Strongly Disagree**	**2.86**

Public Comments:

- Question 1* statement under 'habitat management – "…although habitat and food do not normally regulate prey populations where predators exist." I do not think that this is correct.
- Please manage the habitat for the sake of the animals – not to maximize their lowest potential.
- Part of this GMD belongs under a 'Vegetation Section'.
    - I have concerns about the maintenance of sheep habitat as mush as caribou habitat.

- We should do more than "encourage" people to avoid using critical/sensitive habitats need to place some areas as off-limits.
- Need better information on sheep & goats.
- Gladys Lake ER should not have a horse trail through it, nor should hunting be allowed.
- More information should lead to better decision-making.
- Habitat is fundamentally very important.
- What is meant by "…First Nations traditional knowledge"? – my experience is that they know less than our scientists.
- Burns are good – everybody knows this!
- If habitat protected – all species will do fine.
- Timelines should be attached to the action items.

9 Population Management

General Management Direction

The priority of wildlife population management in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system is to maintain viable populations of all large mammal species while allowing for natural population fluctuations. Accurate monitoring of wildlife population numbers is a priority for ensuring viability of populations. First Nations traditional activities such as hunting and trapping are an important component of the wildlife system. Non-First Nations recreational hunting and guided hunting will continue to be managed more conservatively than in adjacent areas.

Objectives:

- ***To monitor population status of the main large mammal species (caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goats, moose, grizzly bear) in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.***
- ***To manage small and moderate-sized wildlife species as intact viable populations.***
- ***To continue to improve the level of understanding of wildlife population dynamics in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.***
- ***To maintain First Nations traditional hunting and trapping activities that are consistent with conservation and public safety objectives.***
- ***To provide high quality wilderness-based hunting opportunities for resident and non-resident hunters that are consistent with conservation objectives.***
- ***To maintain trapping opportunities that are consistent with conservation objectives.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 22.22	**Agree 44.44**	**Disagree 27.78**	**Strongly Disagree 5.56**

Public Comments:

- Page 23. Under "General Management Direction" there is reference to managing "more conservatively". This is a relative term. What if we were to allow a general open season on bulls, cows and calves outside the Park? A "more conservative" strategy might be to have an open season on bull and calves. I guess what I am trying to say is that the management strategy should be more explicitly outlined (i.e. in Parks there will be LEH, bulls only, no more than x number of permits).

- Page 24. What are the BC Park's hunter harvest management policies? If there is a formal document, it could be appended or at least summarized.
- While I agree that some FN hunting & trapping "consistent with conservation objectives" should be allowed, I disagree that any other hunting or trapping "opportunities" should be allowed anywhere in the protected areas.
- Overall I agree – however, I feel that trapping ought to be removed {as an allowed activity} – it is simply that it's time has past.
    - Grizzly hunting should be stopped – both for resident and non-resident.
    - The desire by people to knock-off other large predators (i.e.: wolf) should be discouraged.
- Include in studies of populations – impact of commercial flights into and out of Parks, especially to determine which routes of entry & exit will have least impact & establish minimum height of flyovers.
- Would not argue with a conservatively managed FN harvest – although I disagree that it has anything to do with the "natural state" of wildlife populations.
    - As for non-FN hunting & trapping it should not be allowed!
    - "Trophy hunting" is the antithesis of natural ecosystem functioning!
- FN activities should also be carried out in a manner more conservative than adjacent areas to allow coordinated management.
    - The various groups involved in this must be working together with the game objectives.
- FN and resident BC taxpayers should have equal access to all hunting activities.
- Agree with the first part of the GMD & 1st three objectives.
    - Disagree that hunting and trapping should be permitted within these protected areas.
    - Sheep and goat surveys need to be done immediately in Spatsizi & the Gladys Lake ER should be distinct sub sample.
    - Precautionary principle should be explicitly involved here.
- Trapping by non-natives should not be allowed (pursuant to Park Act?)
- Native and non-native hunting should be managed with the same degree of conservation.
- Priority should be to allow populations to fluctuate naturally.
    - Due to lack of inventory data, hunting & trapping should be allowed very conservatively.
    - Need more information on predator/prey dynamics & on population estimates.
- Harvest levels should be limited to what presently occurs – and less if wildlife populations are threatened.
- FN hunting & trapping should be monitored to ensure that it doesn't affect animal populations diversely.
- Large mammal population inventories should be a priority.
    - Apart from FN traditional hunting & trapping activities – hunting opportunities should be decreased over time.
- Except for FN subsistence hunting & trapping, BC Parks should follow the example of Parks Canada in banning hunting from all BC Parks.
- I agree – however, some portions of all parks should exclude all hunting at all times - to allow free access to 'nature lovers', regardless of the time of year (or hunting season).
- Hunting in parks seems inconsistent if the objective is to support naturally occurring ecosystems?
- Must look at ways to increase resident access.

- Research & monitoring is good – but where is the money coming from to do this?
- Fn & non-FN traditional activities must continue.
    - More conservative management need only occur in areas of easier access.
    - Population management must be done based on numbers of the whole population
        - not just what exists inside protected areas boundaries at a given time.
- Any management regime should not include trophy hunting.
- Trophy hunting removes the best gene pool of the population and should be terminated.
- Hunting for food for FN is acceptable.
- The word "recreational" in reference to hunting is not appropriate.
    - Many hunters & anglers consider this a 'way-of-life'.
    - Non-hunters or anti-hunters read this wording as if it is a 'sport'.
- BC Parks would do well to mover towards a no hunting policy – with an eventual buy-out of guide-outfitters.
    - The SCPA have the potential to be a "Canadian Serengeti" – hunting (especially trophy hunting) is becoming an anachronistic activity.
- Both FN and non-FN recreational & guided hunting should be equally conservatively managed – otherwise, the purpose of the park is defeated.
    - Objective No. 5 should be to "allow", not "provide".
    - Page 24 of DMP – 2nd point from bottom should remove specific mention of BC Wildlife Federation – shoul l be generic reference – otherwise, BC Federation of Mountain Clubs should be included elsewhere.
- Monitoring, control and enforcement of FN's hunting and trapping for other than ceremonial and sustenance uses – should be possible.

10 Rare and Sensitive Species

General Management Direction

For rare and sensitive wildlife species, the role of the Stikine Country Protected Area system is to provide a large core area of habitat that is for the most part, undisturbed by humans. The focus is on understanding, monitoring and maintaining habitat and dynamics of rare species.

Objectives:

- ***To protect known rare and sensitive species and their habitat.***
- ***To increase the information base on rare and sensitive species.***
- ***To monitor population status of grizzly bears, wolverines and fisher.***
- ***To establish a baseline monitoring program for amphibians in an ecosystem relatively undisturbed by humans.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 46.67	**Agree 43.33**	**Disagree 6.67**	**Strongly Disagree 3.33**

Public Comments:

- Page 25. Use of the term "Rare" leads to the perception that the particular species cannot/should not be hunted. I would perhaps use the terms "Blue and Red-listed Species" for which there are specific definitions.

- Concerned that BC Parks won't have the resources to do this. Sufficient resources should be allocated to do the work. This message should go to the political level.
- Great if money can be found to do it during these hard times!
- Grizzlies are a sensitive species and must be kept on this list.
- 2nd objective should also include invertebrates and plants
    - This GMD is contradictory, and rather two-faced
    - The focus should be on protecting rare species
    - The "large core area of habitat" is disturbed by humans is an important and fatal respect
    - Grizzly, fisher & wolverines continue to be shot in "protected areas"
- Maintain current undisturbed portions of the parks and add if necessary, to protect endangered areas.
- FN access to any species should not be unlimited.
- Increased efforts to collect more data (on ecosystems) is valuable to proper management.
- There is no place, historically, unaffected by humans.
- Up-to-date data is important – as is habitat protection.
- Maintain Ecoreserve.
- Discontinue hunting for Grizzly Bears, Wolverine and Fisher (trapping).
- Further protected areas may be necessary to accomplish this objective. I.e.: no Grizzly hunting zone in the Chutine.
- What about the "unknown rare and sensitive species and their habitats" – the 1st objective assumes that we know everything there is – sincerely doubt that this is true!

11 Wildlife Movements

General Management Direction

The Stikine Country Protected Areas system is a core protected area for large mammal species in the region. BC Parks will work with other agencies to coordinate management of known areas of use outside of protected area boundaries and to maintain wildlife movement corridors along the Pitman and Chukachida rivers.

Objective:

- ***To coordinate with other agencies and First Nations to minimize impacts on Stikine Country Protected Areas' wildlife moving beyond protected area boundaries.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree	**52.78**	**Agree**	**36.11**	**Disagree**	**5.56**	**Strongly Disagree**	**2.77**

Public Comments:

- Why this is a priority when you can shoot them inside the park is beyond me……
- Corridors are very necessary to avoid inter-breeding.
- I hope that BC Parks has the ability (staff & time) to do interagency work on a level platform.
- Good luck! a lot of work, lots of time & money required.
- Believe land use consultation groups in Dease Lake agreed that access to the Pitman & Chukachida Rivers would not be restricted!

- These areas are outside the park and due to remote & difficult access, they should not be governed by BC Parks staff (LRMP agreement).
- This GMD is about coordinating management OUTSIDE of protected areas
  - Remove reference (in draft management document) to unacceptable *possible* mining roads crossing the Pitman and Chukachida – within protected areas.
- Costly venture with dubious benefits.
- This sounds like BC Parks conspires with FN to expand their share of influence everywhere … is there no limit!
- It is important to manage links to the east – M-K & special management / protected areas in Mackenzie LRMP area.
- Access & habitat protection are key considerations in protecting wildlife corridors.
- Additional wildlife corridors should be identified and maintained.
- Support BC Parks representing a strong conservation interest in discussions regarding activities outside of parks.

11.1 Wildlife/Human Interactions

Objectives:

- *To protect wildlife populations during sensitive seasons such as winter and the spring birthing season.*
- *To minimize habitat disturbance.*
- *To minimize human/bear interactions.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 61.77	Agree 32.25	Disagree 2.94	Strongly Disagree 2.94

Public Comments:

- Do not believe we need to minimize all human/bear interactions. Rather the public needs to be educated so they can understand bear behaviour and as a result, minimize negative human/bear interactions.
  - Bear viewing & other wildlife viewing opportunities have significant economic potential.
- Agree – including the non-whites.
- What is the bear/human interaction plan?
- Keep this a Natural Environment Zone.
- We should do more than "encourage" people to avoid using critical/sensitive habitats ✍ need to place some areas as off-limits.
- Priority should be placed on conserving wildlife. Public must be made aware of potential conflict situations and taught how to avoid / deal with them.
- Consider the approach of Kluane National Park of requiring backcountry campers to use bear-proof food containers – which are rented out to campers for a small fee.
  - Consider offering orientation courses to people wishing to enter backcountry areas at points of entry – i.e.: Dease Lake.
- Agree, but – the GMD is unsatisfactory as it says nothing about the positive features of wildlife/human interactions – many visitors regard interactions with wildlife as the highlight of their time in the park.

- *Add objective – No Hunting in Parks!*
- Very concerned about large number of helicopter-related activities – especially in nursing areas.
- Do not allow commercial wildlife viewing from aircraft.
- To avoid conditioning, habituation or dispersion of species – commercial recreation and continued use of a specific area must be monitored closely.
- As with all of BC, more public education is required – especially for bear encounters.
- Legislation regarding garbage disposal and storage would be useful from Akemina (?) to Atlin.
- Inform people through signage at trailheads.
- Refuge areas should be established for all species i.e.: areas where humans do not go.

12 Aquatics

General Management Direction

The management priority for fish is to conserve natural fish population diversity, distribution and dynamics throughout the Stikine Country Protected Areas waters. Fish stocking will not be considered unless populations are declining severely and population viability is threatened due to human-caused disturbances. Stocking will not be considered to enhance angling opportunities. Determining the status and maintaining a viable population of bull trout is a priority.

Objectives:

- ***To ensure the natural functioning of fish populations.***
- ***To provide a range of recreational angling opportunities that have low impacts on fish populations.***
- ***To quantify non-guided angling activity and harvest.***
- ***To manage angling and angling-guide activities.***
- ***To minimize and mitigate impacts of increased angling pressure on protected area fish populations due to potential improved road access.***
- ***To safeguard the opportunity of First Nations to take fish for ceremonial or sustenance purposes.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 45.71	**Agree 40.00**	**Disagree 11.42**	**Strongly Disagree 2.86**

Public Comments:

- Page 29. Fish "stocking" implies introducing a genetically different, but similar, species of fish into a lake or spending a HUGE amount of money to get the same fish produced and introduced back into the lake. Is this wise management? Provincial fisheries are almost a thing of the past.
- Page 30. It is not possible to "determine" the effects of introduced trout into Buckley Lake in the absence of baseline data. (I am at a loss as to why you wish to protect an introduced species on one hand [Buckley Lake trout] and on the other hand, devote considerable time, effort and money to eradicate an introduced species [noxious weeds - Page 18]. The aim is biological diversity and integrity! The more roads and bridges – the less the wilderness experience.
- How is BC Parks able to do this? – where is the staff & resources?

- Why must we cater to people who take pleasure in killing things, especially in "protected" areas?
    - By all means allow a FN harvest for ceremonial and sustenance purposes.
    - Otherwise, ban the sport fishery.
    - The natural functioning of ecosystems never took into consideration an economic benefit to guide-outfitters.
- Access should be for residents of BC & guiding of non-residents should be secondary.
- "Potential improved" road access is unacceptable.
    - Mines a rogue ministry & should not be legitimized in these documents
    - Precautionary principle should be explicitly involved.
    - Jet boat use unacceptable
- Monitoring of fish populations is important. Stocking must be avoided in wilderness parks.
- If you want to maintain present fishing quality – then leave surface access the way it is.
- Lakes should not be stocked.
    - Angling should be more conservative within parks, than outside parks.
    - People should be allowed to catch & eat fish and not encouraged to max your limit!
- Consider biological risk if stocking is undertaken from a different gene pool.
- For baseline purposes, some lakes & streams should never be fished.
- Angling guides ✍ who needs them?
- Angling opportunity must be maintained – but species conservation is always a priority.
    - All non-residents in these areas should be guided.
    - Habitat & water quality must be maintained.
- Must quantify – guided as well.
    - Catch & release must be studied to prove that it has no impacts by commercial guides – if impacts occur, then guides to pay big $.
- What is a "recreational angler"?
    - As a consumer, I like to catch and harvest fish.
    - Catch and release should not be used as a management tool.
- There should be some mention of no-take zones.
- In the Draft Management Direction document, reference to "provide" opportunities should be changed throughout document to read "…to allow a range of…"
- The 5th listed objective about minimising and mitigating increased angling pressure – would tend to be contradictory to the GMD of not stocking aquatic resources.

13 Scientific Research and Education

General Management Direction

Promote scientific research and education initiatives that are consistent with priorities established for the Stikine Country Protected Area system.

Objective:

- *To collect information on the natural and cultural features of the Stikine Country Protected Areas.*

Do you agree with the objectives and associated strategies?

Strongly Agree 54.29	**Agree 40.00**	**Disagree 2.86**	**Strongly Disagree 2.86**

Public Comments:

- Great if one can get funding!
  - Who will control activities of researchers? Some will argue that researchers could do more damage than good e.g.: collecting too many specimens; disturbing nest/den sites?
  - Suggestion ✍ periodically post information on research studies or results thereof in accessible places like Cold Fish camp and BC Parks website.
- Strongly agree with GMD, however – a re-write of the objective to read: *To study the natural and cultural features of the SCPA, and make the results of the studies known and understandable.*
  - Science is not just about collecting information (inventory) – analysis & evaluation is required
- There are a lot of unanswered questions about recreational impacts on wildlife, fish, vegetation and geological features, which must be answered if recreation is to continue.

14 Access

14.1 Floatplanes

General Management Direction

Floatplanes are recognized as an historic and important mode of access to the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Air access to the protected areas will continue to be primarily by floatplane with small numbers of helicopter drop-offs and pick-ups. New modes of air access will not be allowed, and air access will be managed carefully to maintain natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values.

Objectives:

- *To provide a level of floatplane and ski plane access that allows visitors to enjoy the Stikine Country Protected Areas without unacceptable impacts on fish and wildlife populations or the wilderness experience of other users.*
- *To provide low levels of helicopter access for limited purposes.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 40.00	Agree 48.57	Disagree 5.71	Strongly Disagree 5.71

Public Comments:

- Needs to be much stronger education about the need for pilots NOT to fly low over wildlife for viewing – the public should be encouraged to report such incidences.
- Helicopter access is also historic – why would we want to limit the commercial operators ability to realize revenue from this area of their service??
    - Floatplane access concentrates air access to lakes only – hdicopter access could serve to spread out use.
    - Helicopter access should not disturb wildlife populations.
- Heli-hiking & Heli-skiing should not be permitted. Helicopters at low levels are very disturbing.
- Strongly support monitoring of number of planes/day into places commonly used (Cold Fish, Bulkley Lakes).
    - Have heard complaints that there is far too much air traffic & it is spoiling the wilderness experience.
    - Should there be ANY helicopter or plane access into Gladys Lake?? some would say it is not compatible with Eco-Reserve Act?
- Ensure that commercial & private floatplane operators have equal treatment.
    - Restrictions should be minimal and must ensure flight safety is not compromised.
    - Annual reporting by pilots could provide valuable information for BC Parks.
- Agree that some lakes be closed to floatplane access.
    - Helicopter access needs to be tightly controlled.
- Access should be equal to river boats.
    - Equal access for all.
    - This is a historic and important mode of access for the remote areas.
    - River boats do not have any more effect on the environment than aircraft.
- Pilots (guides) should have clear guidelines regarding 'wildlife viewing' from aircraft – don't allow it.
- Private plane access should NOT be allowed – only by authorized, permitted carriers.
    - No helicopter access, except limited access to Mt. Edziza PA
- No restrictions to float plane access.
- Remove parks from Section 27, Schedule A Park Act Regulation status.
- Air access should be kept at minimum. Commercial operators should have strict aircraft-use guidelines within the parks.
- Aircraft need to be limited to certain corridors of operations.
- Float planes should be limited in size.
- Some areas should be off-limit to all aircraft – to prevent or limit access to only the 'well-healed'.
    - It can be disconcerting to spend days hiking into an area only to have someone fly in & set up a noisy, inconsiderate camp.
- Limit helicopter access in most areas except for management purposes.
    - Helicopters should not be allowed for portaging rafting outfits.
    - Multiple helicopter take-offs & landings should be prohibited.
- Important to closely regulate helicopter use.
    - "flightseeing" of animals has to be discouraged (minimum height rules)

- Helicopter access should only be permitted on a case-by-case basis.
    - The GMD should be re-written to anticipate the problems that may arise if technological development allows large numbers of visitors to access the parks using devices they pilot and own.
- Aircraft access for resident hunters should be increased. Either a new airstrip should be built or the guide's airstrip should be opened-up (expropriated) for resident hunter's use.
- Agree with floatplanes & ski planes ✍ no, or very limited helicopter access.
- Traditional floatplane access must be maintained to provide access.
    - Continued commercial helicopter access may be very detrimental to wildlife and should be closely monitored.
- No landing on river bars.
- Perhaps limit helicopter landing in remote areas for people with disabilities only – this would make these areas otherwise inaccessible.
- Air access disasters like the Bugaboos and Assiniboine should serve as red flags.
- I would like to see wheel planes included in the GMD as an historic & important mode of access to the SCPA's.
    - I would like to see wheel planes included with float planes & ski planes in 1st objective.
    - I recognize Parks will not maintain the Cold Fish airstrip but would like to see usage continue, as in the past, at pilots' discretion and judgement.
    - Establish flight paths and height minimums in sensitive areas – would prefer to have sensitive areas marked on maps due to weather & safety reasons.
    - Prior authorization for floatplanes – a new approach is required.
    - Suggest discussions with the BCFA to resolve this question as the existing system has been difficult and certain situations are impractical. ✍ Possibly an annual use permit?
    - Public access and use should be encouraged, not restricted.
- Page 35 of the newsletter, second bullet – speaks to a closure of the Grand Canyon, yet the sixth bullet contradicts the second by saying that flying below the rim of the Grand Canyon is permissible post July 15th ✍ but does not reference the specifications that have been negotiated.
- Wording of "carefully managed" in GMD may be open to interpretation. It might help to add a statement on the need for "careful and restrictive management".
- Re: prior notification requirement:
    - This is not equitable in that the commercial operators, who comprise by far the greater amount of air traffic, do not have to comply, except via an annual permit.
    - Perhaps a solution to providing BC Parks with useful and more accurate user data might be an annual, nominal Permit – which could identify aircraft type, colour and registration – plus a year-end questionnaire similar to that used by Fish & Wildlife.
    - The potential contravention of a government regulation may also raise an insurance issue – such that coverage may thereby be invalidated.
- Prior notification is not practical.
    - It is also not fair to discriminate against private pilots verses commercial operators through uneven application of this same regulation.
    - The inclusion of a firearm in the aircraft survival kit is a basic necessity when flying anywhere in BC – park regulations need to reflect this fundamental piece of equipment.

14.2 Roads

General Management Direction

New roads will not be allowed within the protected areas, except for in Mt. Edziza, Pitman River and Chukachida protected areas as directed by the Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine LRMP, to accommodate mineral access, or near the Highway 37 bridge to accommodate frontcountry type developments. Additional road access into the Stikine Country Protected Areas will be discouraged except where such access is compatible with protected area management objectives. Where new roads or improvements to existing roads are proposed adjacent to protected areas, BC Parks will work co-operatively with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts on natural, cultural heritage and recreation values from occurring in protected areas. Where increased access is compatible with protected area objectives, BC Parks will seek to optimize benefits while minimizing negative impacts.

Objective:

- *To coordinate management of land-based access to the Stikine Country Protected Areas with other agencies and First Nations to ensure that access does not impair the natural or cultural values of the protected areas.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 29.41	**Agree 52.94**	**Disagree 11.76**	**Strongly Disagree 5.89**

Public Comments:

- Page 37. The 3rd line "Avoid disruption of the mineral lick.." is poorly worded.
- The 6th line refers to the use of a gate. Essentially our experience is that gates don't work for their intended purposes.
- The 12th line "..to minimize destruction of seasonal migration of caribou." is poorly worded. What is meant?
- The 23rd line refers to Park's intention to help maintain the bridge in a safe condition. We have often felt that the best thing that could happen would be for the bridge to be destroyed????? I point this out to indicate that Park and non-Park objectives may differ. Road access should NOT be allowed for mineral access and should be discouraged at all times.
- New mining roads would be very questionable.
- Mostly agree but strongly disagree with maintenance of BCR rail grade – this encourages illegal poaching.
- The 1st and 2nd sentence of the GMD are contradictory to each other.
    - Also, the last sentence in the GMD needs to be clarified.
- The 3 listed exceptions are unacceptable, despite LRMP dicta.
    - "additional road access" is also unacceptable
    - "discouraged except where such access is compatible" is dishonest language.
    - Roads are anathema to Stikine Country Parks.
    - This GMD reflects a troubling lack of understanding by BC Parks of what the SCPA are about
- Need to improve access for viewing of Stikine Grand Canyon.
- No new roads!
- Do not just "discourage", but limit any future road access into the protected areas.
- Manage risks associated with road access into Pitman & Chukachida Rivers as well as the Mt. Edziza Protected Area.

- Consider removing one of the bridges on the old BCR rail grade to discourage entry by 4-wheel drive vehicles and illegal hunting/poaching.
- I would add to the GMD something to the effect that – whenever BC Parks assents to road development, it does so on condition not only of mitigation but also of no net loss.
- Disagree with any roads into Mount Edziza PA.
- Here we go again – management by eliminating or denying access. Who is the park managed for anyway – the rich and fit?
- Strongly agree that no new roads allowed ✍ feel GMD statement "…where such access is compatible…" is too open.
- Far better to maintain road access as it exists now.
- Who does road referrals?
- Increased road access in NOT compatible with conservation values.
- I do not want to look down from Edziza and see more roads!!
- There should be no exceptions – roads are not compatible with the purpose of the park. This GMD is inconsistent in its intent and wording.
- Wildlife migratory routes should be identified and road construction designed accordingly.
- Am concerned that once road access is made or improved, deterioration of habitats and populations can't be far behind.

14.3 Snowmobiles

General Management Direction

Access to the Stikine Country Protected Areas by snow machines will generally be restricted and require specific authorization. Limited snowmobile access for First Nations traditional uses, for access along the Klastline Trail, for trap lines holders, and for guide outfitters {for camp maintenance} will continue.

Objective:

- *To provide for limited snow machine access while avoiding unacceptable impacts to wildlife populations and other protected area values.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 28.57	**Agree 48.57**	**Disagree 11.42**	**Strongly Disagree 11.42**

Public Comments:

- NO general public recreational use should be allowed for private or commercial purposes.
- Snowmobile access to the area is limited – as a result, access into the Parks – particularly into Mt. Edziza & Bulkley lake from Telegraph Creek – should be allowed as long as there are no negative impacts to sensitive wildlife populations.
    - Local commercial operators should also be able to develop winter snowmobiling products to realize economic benefits from the Park system.
    - Monitoring should occur to insure they are no negative impacts to sensitive wildlife populations.
- There should be room for all parties – not just one particular group. Therefore, restricted snowmobiling should also be allowed.
- Snowmobiles should be VERY limited.

- What strategy (if any) do BC Parks have to prevent illegal use of snowmobiles? E.g.: how can you prevent snowmobile use in Spatsizi Park when people can access it via the BCR grade? this could be a serious problem in the future.
- Unless it can be determined that snowmobiles create damage to wildlife, they should be allowed in the parks – at the very least, there could be designated areas (e.g.: Kakwa Park as an example).
- If you allow jet boats / motorboats, then snowmobiles should be allowed.
- No recreational snowmobile use should be allowed in the protected areas.
- The GMD needs to be clarified are specific authorizations going to be given for activities not listed (in the GMD) – and if so, for what?
    - Add sentence banning commercial snowmobile activities.
- Use of snow machines should always be restricted and require specific authorization – not just "generally"
    - Yet another GMD with contradictory objectives – snowmobile access will ALWAYS conflict with wildlife (& other values).
    - Definition of "acceptable" will be forever changing.
- Snowmobile access for residents should be the same as natives, trappers & guides.
- Snowmobile use should be only for emergencies. No recreational snowmobiling.
- Very concerned about any snowmobile use within protected areas.
- Perhaps some snowmobile access could be allowed near roads & limited to very specific areas.
- Snowmobile access to the SCPA should be restricted and require specific authorization.
- Take out the word "generally" – it should be restricted, monitored and controlled.
- The language of the GMD is too vague and ambiguous concerning "limited" or "restricted".
    - Snowmobiling use is restricted and limited in Babine Mountains Park, but it has still become a nightmare for other users.
    - At a minimum, some areas of the parks – and areas readily accessible to non-motorized users – should never have their natural silence degraded by the sound of snowmobiles.
    - For such zones, a buffer of at least 10 km would be required.
    - This GMD should be conditional on regular review of scientific evidence, including social science, on the impacts of snowmobiles.
- What "traditional" FN use needed snowmobiles?
- Traditional use areas should be maintained.
    - Increased snowmobile access to critical winter range would be detrimental to wildlife and fish (via ice-fishing).
- Agree for trapping – not for guides.
    - Do not allow these machines or any other off-road or off-river machines in parks.
    - Use dog sleds like in the old days & make it an adventure.
- Do not provide anything beyond existing infrastructure for snow machine access.
    - It is impossible to avoid unacceptable impacts to wildlife and other protected area values.
    - The nightmare in the Squamish-Pemberton corridor is a good example of what not to do!
- Who decides the 'unacceptable impacts'?
    - There is no traditional use of snowmobiles – they used snowshoes and dogsleds.
- Remove "generally" from the GMD – snowmobiles are incompatible with park objectives.

15 Facilities

15.1 Structures

General Management Direction

Structures will be carefully managed and controlled. Shelters, including cabins and tent frames or other structures, will be considered only where consistent with zone and management area objectives. For the Klastline and Metsantan additions, Stikine River Park and the Chukachida and Pitman River protected areas, the Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine LRMP directed that cabins be considered to support backcountry recreation and that opportunities for front-country tourism development near Highway 37 bridge be considered. Following is direction from the Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine LRMP, "*Generally, physical commercial infrastructure (e.g., roads, lodgings, staging areas, etc.) will be directed outside of protected area boundaries in order to minimize impacts within Protected Areas*" (Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000). Present structures can be maintained, provided they are still required.

Objective:

- *To keep infrastructure development to a minimum level appropriate for wilderness protected areas.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 30.30	**Agree 51.52**	**Disagree 12.12**	**Strongly Disagree 6.06**

Public Comments:

- I support Gladys Lake plans to continue to minimize use of this area for recreation while maintaining access for research purposes.
  - Strongly DISAGREE with any attempt to have private sector proposals for Cold Fish Lake. The likelihood of any private venture occurring without increased commercial pressure on the surrounding area is very low – especially with the Gladys lake Reserve so close.
  - Horse disturbance on some of the trails is very bad already.
- In the Chukachida-Pitman river, upper Stikine, etc. – the old structures should be fixed-up for emergency shelters.
  - Don't advertise the Gladys cabin but leave it for emergencies.
  - Shelters should be somewhat out of sight in order to maintain wilderness character.
  - No new roads or bridges should be allowed – to maintain site quality.
  - Always encourage volunteers for trails and emergency shelter maintenance. Responsible teenagers can do the same – give them free transportation.
  - No-trace camping is almost a "must".
- One solution to the need to balance bed numbers with the demand & desire to minimize buildings – would be to allow new modern structures, that would REPLACE old ones.
  - For example: at Highland Post & Laslui – if desired – build a new lodge & remove some of the cabins. The outfitter has to be able to operate the business in a competitive way. They need to be able to install proper water systems, etc., have accommodation suitable for their clientele. This should be possible without going to a huge facility.

- Agree, BUT think that it would be a shame to remove the Gladys Lake cabin as it has significant historic value ✍ however, mention of it in brochures should be removed.
    - Do not agree with private sector control over Cold Fish camp. This is a facility which belongs to the public. We should explore alternative options e.g.: Friends of Cold Fish Lake to fundraise to maintain the camp for public use.
    - What will happen now that this current government has cut-back funding for park activities e.g.: Volunteer host Program? I will pay my own way in there, but will others?
- Present structures should remain (including Gladys Lake cabin). No new structures.
- Cold Fish Lake ✍ absolutely no private control or ownership.
    - Gladys Lake Eco Reserve ✍ access should be decreased, not increased, and allowed only for research purposes. The Geist (?) cabin should be allowed to continue its return to the earth.
- Facilities should not be built as destinations.
    - Hut-to-hut hiking is okay.
    - Not all lakes should have facilities on them.
- Delete reference to "where feasible" in GMD
    - No need for new commercial infrastructure within SCPA system
    - Chukachida & Pitman do not need cabins – use funds for upkeep of Cold Fish camp.
    - Definitely do not turn Cold Fish camp over to private sector or FN – increase user fee better option
    - Cold Fish is 2 words – fix throughout documents
- Any new commercial structures should be outside of the PA's, except for Hwy 37 bridge which is in 'front country' zoning
    - Stikine headwaters is prime wilderness and should not have any more structures
    - Private control of Gladys Lake is NOT ACCEPTABLE
- No new structures unless absolutely necessary.
- Cold Fish camp to be maintained as a BC Parks facility. Do not sell nor over-commercialize.
- Private sector proposal for Cold Fish camp should not be considered (not it's original intent).
- Present structures incompatible with zone & management objectives should be sun-setted: after a set period of time or the lifetime of the persons with a current interest, the structures should be removed.
- Burn them all down ✍ the guides can use tents & pack it all out annually.
- No new structures within park and protected areas.
- New commercial applications should be carefully reviewed.
- Existing cabins should remain if for no other reason than shelter & safety.
- Leave Mt. Edziza alone – no structures (it is already too late for Spatsizi).
- The GMD does not read the same as in the Draft Management Direction document ✍ double check.
    - The words "when feasible" contradict item 14 (roads)
    - Page 39 of draft MD – the management direction under Structures is attempting to deal with Infrastructure as well.
    - Suggest you compare the "Structures" GMD with that of the more clear and concise "Trails" GMD.
- Commercial facilities should definitely be located outside of park boundaries.

15.2 Trails, Routes and Campsites

General Management Direction

BC Parks will continue to maintain main trails within the protected area system. Secondary trails and new trails, routes and campsites will only be established or maintained to meet specific recreational goals. All new trails will have to undergo the BC Parks impact assessment process. Development, maintenance and use of all trails, routes and campsites will be consistent with zoning and conservation goals of the protected areas. BC Parks will seek to work with other organizations and the private sector to maintain or upgrade trails to create recreational opportunities.

Objective:

- ***To maintain trails, routes and campsites at a minimum wilderness standard. If use levels have unacceptable impacts consider improving, relocating or upgrading trails, or alternatively, closing them.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 47.06	**Agree 44.12**	**Disagree 5.88**	**Strongly Disagree 2.94**

Public Comments:

- Horse use on some trails had made them virtually unfit for humans who walk. This must be addressed, especially around Gladys Lake.
- What about route from Danhue (?) into Bates Camp? it is still clearly visible.
    - AND, remove all mention of circle route through Gladys Lake Eco Reserve from all brochures and maps.
    - AND, monitor "illegal" use of trails into Gladys Lake Eco Reserve.
- BC Parks should work with user groups re: trail maintenance. Trails can be maintained with minimal cost to BC Parks (& tax payers). Many would volunteer to do trail maintenance if given the opportunity.
- The use of horses in the eco systems may be traditional, but it is certainly making a mess of the trails. In some areas, it all but eliminates the ability to hike them.
- Commercial travel should be discontinued on upper Cullivan Creek – Ice Box Canyon Trail.
    - Other option available. Will remove temptation to hunt along western boundary of Gladys Lake ER
    - What about the trail(s) to Todagin Mountain??
    - Mess Creek mineral springs needs some inventory & mapping for rare & sensitive species prior to any consideration of trails & brochures. Very little known about this area except in general terms.
- Sign posts are not compatible and are not needed if maps are available for visitors.
    - Objective should be to "maximize" wilderness standard
    - Horse use of trails must be monitored to ensure minimum impacts
    - Horse trails along Cold Fish Lake required immediate attention
- Do not close trails.
- Maintain trails at a minimum wilderness standard – look at separating foot & horse trails.
- Enough trails (rough or otherwise) should be allowed so that there is some access to most parts of the parks. They need not be anything more than a marked route in some cases.
- Existing trails should be maintained.

- New trails should be established except if old trails or portions of them have to be relocated.

- With the present acute under funding of BC Parks, where will the money come from to maintain trails?
  - Must maintain integrity of Gladys Lake ER.
- The GMD should include reference to the means by which it will be decided that specific trails do, or do not satisfy park goals.
- Horses should not be allowed to use trails people use.
- Use science to make decisions.
- Routes and trails on the plateaus are at best fanciful and would be better off allowed to return to nature – let the users find their own way.
- Trails should be ATV accessible in most cases.
- Decommissioning of some trails should be undertaken where appropriate; where access to a particular area may be repeated by parallel trails or where the trail pattern divides an area into small ecologically impacted segments.

16 Recreation

General Management Direction

Recreation management will focus on providing a range of recreation experiences in a wilderness setting. Experiences will range from facilitybased recreation near Highway 37 to recreation experiences where quiet and solitude prevail.

Recreational use must not compromise the ecological values of the protected areas, and must respect cultural heritage values. Appropriate recreational activities include hiking, canoeing, mountaineering, rafting, horse travel, hunting, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing and motor/jet boating; some of these activities are restricted to certain areas. Limited snowmobiling use will continue in support of First Nations traditional use, trapping and camp maintenance for guide-outfitters. Competitive recreational events are not considered appropriate for these protected areas. Authorizations for other recreational activities will be guided by protected area values detailed in this plan.

Objectives:

- ***To provide high quality wilderness recreation opportunities to experienced backcountry visitors.***
- ***To ensure that recreational activities do not have unacceptable impacts on the fish and wildlife populations, cultural heritage values, rare and endangered plant species and plant communities, and physical features in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.***
- ***To enhance the backcountry visitors' awareness of First Nations and pioneer cultural heritage, natural history, wildlife etiquette, and bear encounter avoidance techniques.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 50.00	**Agree 38.24**	**Disagree 8.82**	**Strongly Disagree 2.94**

Public Comments:

- Agree, but think hunting should not be allowed in any protected areas.
- Strongly agree except that snowmobiling should be allowed just as jet boats are allowed.
  - Snowmobiling to Bulkley Lake is a historical use and does not negatively impact the Park.

- Snowmobiling in other parts of the park system should be allowed.

- Who is to look after the use (or abuse) of snowmobiles – for First Nations, trappers, guide-outfitters?
- Suggest a park education program – for people wanting to enter. This way, BC Parks knows that – at the least – park users have been introduced to the concepts of no-trace camping & know to avoid cultural sites / rare plants, etc.
- Trophy hunting is neither traditional nor acceptable in a "protected area" being managed for its "natural" values. ✍ please put an end to it!
- Motorized activities are generally not appropriate in back country areas.
- Agree but, motorized recreational use is not compatible with a quality recreation experience.
- Do not allow any other activities other than those mentioned.
- Motor & jet boating are not compatible to protected areas.
- Definitely no hovercraft of jet-skis within the protected areas.
- Fix GMD – snowmobiling use by members of FN or guide-outfitters is not recreational and does not require mention here.
    - It seems bizarre that the GMD does not include nature observation and contemplation as appropriate activities.
- If the public cannot use a snowmobile – then neither should a corporate interest!
    - FN can use dogs if they like – this being a true traditional use
    - Snowmobiles are not a "traditional use".
- Group size and designated camp areas should only be entertained if the need arises.
- No ATVs, no snowmobiles.
- Equality amongst the user groups is important. One group should not be allowed to push for priority use.
- Place "historical aboriginal" in front of "cultural".
    - Hunting and fishing are not "appropriate" – they are historical.
    - Do you mean "all competitive" or both "commercial and non-commercial"?
- Last objective should read "people to wildlife etiquette" – pretty tough to enhance the wildlife's etiquette – they're the ones that have it together!!!
- There should be no recreational motor/jet boating. The only motorized boating should be for transportation or as it relates to subsistence hunting/trapping.
- Support ban of personal watercraft (jet skis)

16.1 Backcountry Hiking and Mountaineering

General Management Direction

Backcountry hiking and mountaineering will continue while minimizing impacts on nature, cultural heritage and recreation values. Emphasis will be placed on providing high quality wilderness experiences to visitors.

Objective:

- *To provide high quality wilderness backcountry hiking and mountaineering opportunities.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 58.82	**Agree 32.35**	**Disagree 5.88**	**Strongly Disagree 2.94**

Public Comments:

- It is fine to restrict even this type of access to special areas such as Gladys Lake Reserve.
- The remoteness of these sensitive places should stay that way – no new roads/bridges.
- Suggestion because Spatsizi & Edziza in particular are increasingly popular, there are already indications that some areas are becoming congested. So, I would like to suggest that you (BC Parks) consider the option of Park Use Permits for such wilderness parks so that visitation numbers can be limited at any one time (e.g.: US wilderness areas)
- A "high quality wilderness experience" surely does not include witnessing the sport slaughter of its magnificent animals – it was not appropriate in the coliseum and its not appropriate in the SCPA!
- Access should be equal for all user groups:
    - People who hunt or fish should have equal access & priority use over commercial back country hiking (hunting & fishing original activities in these areas).
- Mountain bikes are NOT COMPATIBLE and should perhaps be listed as an incompatible use.
- Hiking should only be allowed to occur where it will have no, or minimum, impacts.
- Trail maintenance should be completed on a regular basis.
- The first sentence of the GMD is ungrammatical and nonsensical – hiking and mountaineering are not going to be minimizing impacts.
- "Limits of acceptable change" process needs to be applied.
- Assuming "high quality" implies limited and/or controlled numbers.
- Agree so long as they do not interfere with other user groups.
    - If conflicts arise – limiting their use should be considered.
- It is unusual for mountaineering to have an impact, particularly in an area as remote as the Stikine.
- Change wording from "providing" to "allowing".
- No-go animal refuge areas should be recognized and established.

16.2 Motorboating

Motorboating includes jet and propeller driven boats.

General Management Direction

Motorboating is recognized as an ongoing use on many rivers and lakes within the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Since maintaining a wilderness experience is a priority, motorboating use will be carefully managed to ensure that impacts on natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values are avoided and conflicts with other users are minimized. Use of electric motors and four stroke motors will be encouraged and may be required in situations where they are feasible. Other types of motorboating such as jet-skis, hovercraft and air propelled watercraft will not be allowed.

Objectives – Rivers:

- *To provide motorboating opportunities to continue consistent with acceptable types and levels of use.*
- *To provide high quality wilderness motorboating opportunities to experienced boaters.*

Objective – Lakes:

- *To provide motorboating opportunities to continue consistent with the acceptable types and levels of use.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 20.59	**Agree 55.88**	**Disagree 8.82**	**Strongly Disagree 14.71**

Public Comments:

- "wilderness" & "motorboating" seems like an oxymoron!
- How do you assess "level of experience"?
- This is inconsistent with objectives stated under 'aquatics'!
- Spatsizi River from point of "put-in" to where guide-outfitters camps are should be non-motorized.
- Allow them if you must just remember that for every plane, boat, snowmobile and ATV allowed in – the "wilderness" value is diminished.
- Must not be allowed to proliferate.
    - Guide-outfitters should be limited to transport of goods & supplies – not hunters.
- Motorized boating is much safer than canoeing, kayaking or rafting (have manoeuvrability).
- Motorboating is an incompatible use in a wilderness setting.
- Motorboats should be used only as a means of travel from point A to point B and not as a form of recreation in itself.
    - Silent motors should be required
- No restrictions on engine size.
- The current level of motor boating should be the maximum allowed. Do not allow higher levels.
- Look at limiting some lakes to "no motor use" &/or "electric motors only".
- If motor boating is required on rivers, it should be not allowed during prime breeding season for aquatic/riparian wildlife.
    - Phase out motor use on Cold Fish Lake

- Move to electric motor use only.

- Motor & jet boats are totally incompatible with wilderness values/experience and should be excluded.
- As long as motorboat use and other park use does not conflict – i.e.: experience of canoeing on a lake along with motor boat use would compromise the canoeing experience.
- Why can't a jet-ski be use for hunting? it is just a one-man riverboat that uses less fuel.
    - Joy-riding should not be allowed (with any motor craft)
- This GMD needs to be more restrictive i.e.: motors only where they have historical use.
- Motor boating should continue consistent with LRMP recommendation.
    - I question why the guide-outfitter needs to, or is allowed to, use the Stikine during the closed period? his gear can be brought in via other methods.
- Remove motors (gas) from lakes under a certain size (i.e.: 2 ha.)
- Agree with GMD but question objectives there should be very limited to no increase in present use of motorboats.
- This is a traditional use – commercial users should not follow different rules – should not be squeezed-out to accommodate other users i.e.: canoeing.
- Surely "provide" should read "allow" provide means you will ensure the service is available, whereas allow means permitted.
    - After "continue" in the objective – add "...as long as it is".

16.3 Float Craft

General Management Direction

Canoeing and rafting will continue as self-supported wilderness activities, with a balance between non-commercial and commercial trips. Commercial opportunities will be considered as operators show interest in providing the services. Impact monitoring will continue to assess the impacts of use at popular sites.

Objective:

- ***To provide high quality private and commercial wilderness rafting and canoeing opportunities to experienced boaters.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 34.29	**Agree 51.43**	**Disagree 11.43**	**Strongly Disagree 2.86**

Public Comments:

- How do you assess level of experience?
- Agree, but only as long as impacts at pull-outs & campsites remain low. Should have system to control numbers on rivers/lakes at any one time (e.g.: permits)
- Should be equal access by BC taxpayers over & above commercial rafting or canoeing.
- Numbers need to be limited along the Stikine
    - Increasing commercial use would be unwise.
- Carrying capacity needs to be determined.
- Commercial activities are secondary to public users.
- Need to establish maximum party sizes as some sites are unable to withstand larger groups.

- Concerned that additional commercial wilderness float craft may result in substantial increases in overall traffic and in dispersion of camping & other impacts.
- Motor boat use conflicts with float craft experience.
- Commercial use must not impact on public use.
- Why do we allow commercial interests to use our parks? their licence should cost big $ with funds going into research & clean-up.
- Need to schedule/manage if use is higher.
- Need to develop environmental & aesthetic standards.
- Manage for the experience, not for exploitation of opportunity.
- As long as they do not become intolerant of the motorized users.
- Change "provide" in objective to "allow".

16.4 Winter Recreation

General Management Direction

Winter recreation will be non-motorized except for special situations. Winter recreational use, that does not have unacceptable impacts on wildlife, will be encouraged within Stikine River, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness and Tatlatui Parks. Habitat mapping will be used to direct winter use to suitable areas away from important winter ranges, and the impacts of winter recreation on wildlife will be monitored. Snowmobile use will continue to be restricted to limited First Nations traditional use, trap line use, camp maintenance and recreational use on the Klastline Trail in the Klastline Area.

Objective:

- *To provide safe non-motorized winter recreation opportunities that do not have unacceptable impacts on wildlife or their critical winter range.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 28.57	**Agree 45.71**	**Disagree 17.14**	**Strongly Disagree 8.57**

Public Comments:

- Winter use at this time is very limited - snowmobile use should not be excluded.
    - Horses probably impact the area more so than snowmobiles.
- Winter access should be allowed BUT, new commercial activities should NOT be encouraged – nest thing will be flights with Heli-skiers!
- Snowmobiling is not a traditional mode of transportation for FN people.
    - If you allow FN people to use snowmobiles, then BC Parks needs to allow others the same privilege.
    - Snowmobiling should be allowed where it does not have unacceptable impacts on wildlife.
- Agree that there be no recreational snowmobiling. GMD has to be clear about "special situations".
- Do not consider "new commercial non-motorize winter recreation opportunities" if this means that new commercial infrastructure would be required within the SCPA
- This discriminates against the resident snowmobile operator who is not a native, trapper or guide.
- No recreational snowmobile use.
- Any winter activities should avoid know winter ranges.

- No Heli-skiing!
- Agree, but – ONLY if "special situations" is given a clear definition implying evaluation on a case-by-case basis.
- What's with FN "traditional use"? Is this a negotiated right? If I can't use a snowmobile in the park, then its clearly racial discrimination!
- Impacts on wildlife and fish must be monitored use should be only non-motorized.
- FN snowmobile use must be highly controlled – not for recreational use – only for trapping.
- Perhaps 'safer wording of objectives would be: "To allow safe, non-commercial....."
- Permits for motorized users could be considered.
    - I believe there are Hotsprings near the Frog River that snowmobilers access during the winter months – permits would work to maintain this use.
- Please note Edziza and adjacent areas – Spectrum and Coast Range look good for ski touring.
- Must provide motorized winter recreation – but consider wildlife.
- The GMD is too vague.
- There should be no helicopter skiing or helicopter sight-seeing in wildlife areas – it is the repetitive nature of this activity into the same area that does the damage.
- "Winter Recreation will be non-motorized except for special situations" – this is a very open-ended statement.
- What is an "acceptable" impact to wildlife???

16.5 Horse Use and Pack Animals

General Management Direction

Horses are recognized as an acceptable means of travel within the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Other species of pack animals will continue to be prohibited in recognition of the risk to wildlife species. Use levels will need to be monitored for impacts to trails and vegetation – and controls implemented if necessary.

Objectives:

- ***To minimize the risk of disease transmission from pack animals to wildlife.***
- ***To prevent unacceptable impacts from occurring due to horse use in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.***

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 29.73	**Agree 59.46**	**Disagree 8.11**	**Strongly Disagree 2.70**

Public Comments:

- Glad to see BC Parks plan to develop strategies to minimize impacts of house use on Spatsizi Plateau.
- This country was opened up by use of horse/mule trains and float aircraft – ever since the turn of the last century.
    - Why then restrict horses – mainly (& for that matter, float aircraft)?
    - A second look at helicopters – yes, I can see that.
- What are unacceptable impacts? Horse trails are OK. Are plants introduced via horse feed?

- Judging from comments heard this past summer, there seems to be some concern that BC Parks do not know who is using Spatsizi park with horses and when?
    - So, how does prior authorization work? Does BC Parks have control of horse use?
- Should be monitored as horses have a greater impact than humans.
- Horses are an acceptable mode of travel (historically – Tommy Walker, etc.).
- Need to limit both number of horses in the system, and frequency of use on trails.
    - Backpackers should be able to pack their dogs, if desired.
- Need to assess if there are any noxious weeds introduced by horses?
- Keep horse use away from sensitive sites and rare & endangered vegetation & vegetation communities.
- Limit horse trails to dry ground and do not let them trash wet trails.
- Strongly encourage a monitoring system for assessing impacts of horses.
- Not all trails should be accessible to horses.
- Agree with objectives – disagree with GMD:
    - Concerned with potential introduction of exotic plant species
    - Should be not allowed in specific areas (if in the parks at all)!
- Packhorses should not be allowed on trails used by people.
- Horse use should continue ✍ exotic species should only be permitted if found safe.
- No lamas. No animals other than horses & dogs.
- No pack animals (lama's) unless there is certainty of no disease transmissions.

16.6 Other Recreational Uses

General Management Direction

Mechanized and motorized ground travel of any nature, except those provisioned for in this plan, are generally considered to be incompatible with the wilderness values of the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Commercial or competitive sporting events and aerial sports, such as but not limited to hang-gliding and para-penting, are considered inappropriate with the wilderness and conservation values of the Stikine Country Protected Areas.

Objective:

- *To prohibit mechanized or motorized uses other than motorboats and floatplanes.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree 60.00	**Agree 25.71**	**Disagree 5.71**	**Strongly Disagree 8.57**

Public Comments:

- Snowmobile use should be allowed
- Reduce use of motorboats on Upper Stikine and especially Upper Spatsizi.
- Is mechanized travel really incompatible with wilderness values?? ✍ this should not be a BC Parks staff decision but rather a stakeholder decision based on scientific information.
- Mountain bikes should be discouraged, definitely not encouraged! ✍ major impact potential
- Mountain biking is not an acceptable mode of transport
- Mountain bikes are acceptable.
- Mountain biking should not be introduced as a new recreational activity for the protected areas.

- Agree with GMD – objective needs attention: motor vehicles of any sort, including motorboats, are incompatible with the experience of wilderness.
- Need airstrip for resident hunter use – in fact, one in every park where residents have an LEH allocation.
- What if a solo, non-commercial, hiker para-pents off a ridge back to his camp ✍ why not?
- No bikes on any trail in Mt. Edziza and only on one access to Spatsizi.
- Keep an eye on the ATV's!!
- ATV's & snowmobiles should be allowed – not just free range but travel on designated trails i.e. Cold Fish Lake & Buckley Lake
- Would like to have wheel planes and ski planes included in the objective.
- "if" mountain bikes are to be allowed in to parks, then they must be highly restricted to hardened areas.

17 Commercial Recreational Opportunity and Tenure Management

General Management Direction

Commercial opportunities will be made available using a fair and open process. Exclusive opportunities will normally be awarded following a competitive process. Exceptions are for activities authorized under the Wildlife Act for guide outfitters, fish guides and trappers. BC parks will work with First Nations and local communities to ensure that – to the extent practical – new competitive opportunities are in line with the capacity and readiness of local entrepreneurs.

In general, commercial and public opportunities will be in balance where use levels are limited. Levels of public and commercial use in areas of hunting, fishing & trapping are regulated pursuant to the Wildlife Act.

17a. Do you agree with the general management direction?

Strongly Agree 5.88	**Agree 50.00**	**Disagree 26.47**	**Strongly Disagree 14.71**

Public Comments:

- Areas like Goldfish Lake should remain under public management – while non-profit NGO's should be encouraged to assist in education & management of some facilities.
    - Introduction of private-for-profit use should be minimized – especially for managing facilities – the added commercial pressure is not what this area needs.
- Commercial opportunities should somehow favour local entrepreneurs and should not be pursued until there is local capacity.
- Agree, BUT there should not be too many allowed as they may take away the "wilderness experience" that people are seeking ✍ do not want to end up with people spending huge money to "share" a campsite with 50 other people!!
- Cold Fish Lake should be kept under public control.
    - Increase user fees if you must, but do not let private entrepreneurs run this site.

- Need to specify that commercial tenures, if offered, are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Priority for user access should be for residents of BC 1st, commercial guides & outfitters 2nd.
- Precautionary principle should be in force here re: ecological & wilderness values – not entrepreneurial values of commercial interests.
- Concerned over the implication that opportunities are going to be sought and created – which may lead to over-use before controls are in place.
    - Local communities and FN must be given priority over commercial activities.
    - "To the extent possible" is not good enough – it implies that outside commercial interests will have the competitive edge, resulting in locals being squeezed out, disillusioned and disadvantaged.
    - Day jet boat trips to Beggarlay Canyon is a BAD IDEA and may generate risk management issues with float craft.
    - Horse trips should not be encouraged due to impacts (trails & alpine)
    - Cold Fish camp should not be used for commercial purposes.
- Need to ensure that commercial activities do not necessarily require new infrastructure.
- Commercial activities should be kept to a minimum and should only be allowed if they do not impact natural & cultural values.
- Trophy hunting should not be allowed in the parks.
- Commercial activities should be limited to the carrying capacity of wilderness areas.
- Concerned about BC Parks becoming an advocate for commercial backcountry activity.
    - This may required significant staff time and resources which would be better focused on management & monitoring
    - Any new activities should be required to pay for additional monitoring programs.
- Increasing commercial activities is at odds with the Vision Statement.
    - This runs the risk of totally destroying the wilderness values of the area.
- Do not agree with sentence "… commercial and public opportunities will be in balance" – public opportunities should have priority.
- If "exclusive" means excluding other commercial interests … that's one thing ✍ I believe strongly in the principle of public access to public lands.
- Strongly disagree with "*Exclusive opportunities will normally be awarded following a competitive process.*" ✍ this paralyses new & good operators who are long established.
- Commercial use should be restricted and closely monitored ✍ public access must be maintained.
- Preservation of the environment should be of first, and probably only, priority.
    - Once commercial activities are allowed, decreasing or eliminating becomes extremely difficult.
    - If commercial activities are allowed, there should be no increase in use of any motorized mode of transport.
- See also page 50 of draft management plan:
    - "…new commercial recreational opportunities MAY exist".
    - In GMD, change to "If commercial opportunities are made available, they will be done so using……"
    - The implication is that opportunities must be allowed both in the current wording here and in the draft.
- Commercial undertakings should be very, very limited and when they occur, should have ecological impact far below stress level.

- Concerned over vague wording of: "In general, commercial and public opportunities will be in balance where use levels are limited" ✍ what exactly does this mean??

17b. Do you agree with the list of potential commercial opportunities?

Strongly Agree 0.00	**Agree 43.75**	**Disagree 40.63**	**Strongly Disagree 15.53**

Public Comments:

- Commercial & recreational snowmobiling are being excluded – we feel that these activities should be included (allowed)
- I am thinking that there is enough commercial activity going on already.
    - If more would dome, it would take away from the real wilderness experience.
    - But, if it is out of balance, then by all means bring it back into balance.
- Winter use OK as long as it is non-motorized.
    - Single/multi-day hiking, nature, mountaineering are OK, BUT as long as these commercial groups do not interfere with or negatively impact the public/private use of the area (e.g.: commercial groups taking over Cold Fish camp and thinking that they have some type of exclusive 'right' to the site).
    - No commercial group should be allowed to take their group through the Gladys Lake Eco Reserve.
    - Do not want to see private ownership/management of Cold Fish Camp.
    - FN must be encouraged to practice no-trace camping.
    - Strongly urge BC Parks to consider a system of back-country wilderness use permits for everyone so you can monitor use and have some control over numbers.
- Am concerned about the plans for Cold Fish camp:
    - If private sector involved, the objective will be to make money.
    -
    - Commercial activities must not be allowed to proliferate in the parks.
- Agree, EXCPT
    - Strongly disagree with motorboats above Beggarlay Canyon
    - Do not privatize Cold Fish camp.
- Public opportunities for use should come before commercial opportunities.
- Have concerns over multi-day float craft trips on Stikine & Spatsizi Rivers.
- Have concerns about trips into the Stikine Canyon and impacts on goats.
- Hut-to-hut hiking is a concern re: higher use, more people and potential disturbance to wildlife.
- No to 'day jet boat use'
- No to 'commercial motor boats'
- No new horse trails
- Limit numbers to hiking parties.
- Do not commercialize Cold Fish camp.
- Winter recreation could significantly alienate winter range.
    - Need strong controls for commercial motor boat activities.
    - No new facilities or structures at Cold Fish camp.
    - No new facilities or structures for hut-to-hut concepts. This is not "wilderness recreation" and there is a lot of opportunity for this outside of parks.

- No permanent structures at Buckley Lake.

- Do not entertain the concept of private sector at Cold Fish camp.
  - Raise the fees if required to ensure public control.
- Cold Fish camp to be maintained entirely as a public facility in keeping with the original intent of the Second Century Fund / BC Parks Lease Agreement. TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ANY PRIVATE SECTOR CONTROL.
- Re: GMD – do not agree with hunting in parks.
- Conservation / preservation is always number 1 priority.
- Do not privatize Cold Fish Camp.
- No commercial activity at Cold Fish camp.
  - No structures in Mt. Edziza.
  - No guided fishing on Buckley Lake.
  - FN cultural camps on edge, or outside parks only
- No increase of motorized transport.
  - Cold Fish camp should not, in any way, become part of a private concern.
  - The beauty and solitude of the area is more important than maintenance of all the cabins ✍ what is wrong with having to bring your own tent?
- Commercial interests shouldn't get anymore tenure until the residents establish what they need – residents take priority.
- Should include motorized recreation – winter & summer
- As long as "may" is emphasised.
  - It depends if these opportunities require a large amount of infrastructure & shelters.
  - If no new facilities are required – this is fine.

17c. Are there other opportunities you think should be considered?

- BC Parks has the opportunity to "do it right" – by actually managing a system of northern wilderness parks so as to maintain their ecological integrity while providing quality wilderness experiences.
- Running of backcountry, bear awareness type orientation sessions for visitors.
- Generally I object to commercial interests in our Parks. However, if they must exist – their licence $ should reflect the value of the tenure they use.
  - Public access or use should not be affected.
- No, not commercial ones.
  - The idea of cultural camps and interpretive centres run by FN is appealing provided numbers of participants are limited and monitored by Parks (& no increase in motorized use).
- Possibly a "Re-Discovery" type of activity conducted by Tahltan First Nation.
  - Perhaps the development of an aboriginal heritage trail – to be owned and operated by the Tahltan FN.

18 Zoning & Management Areas

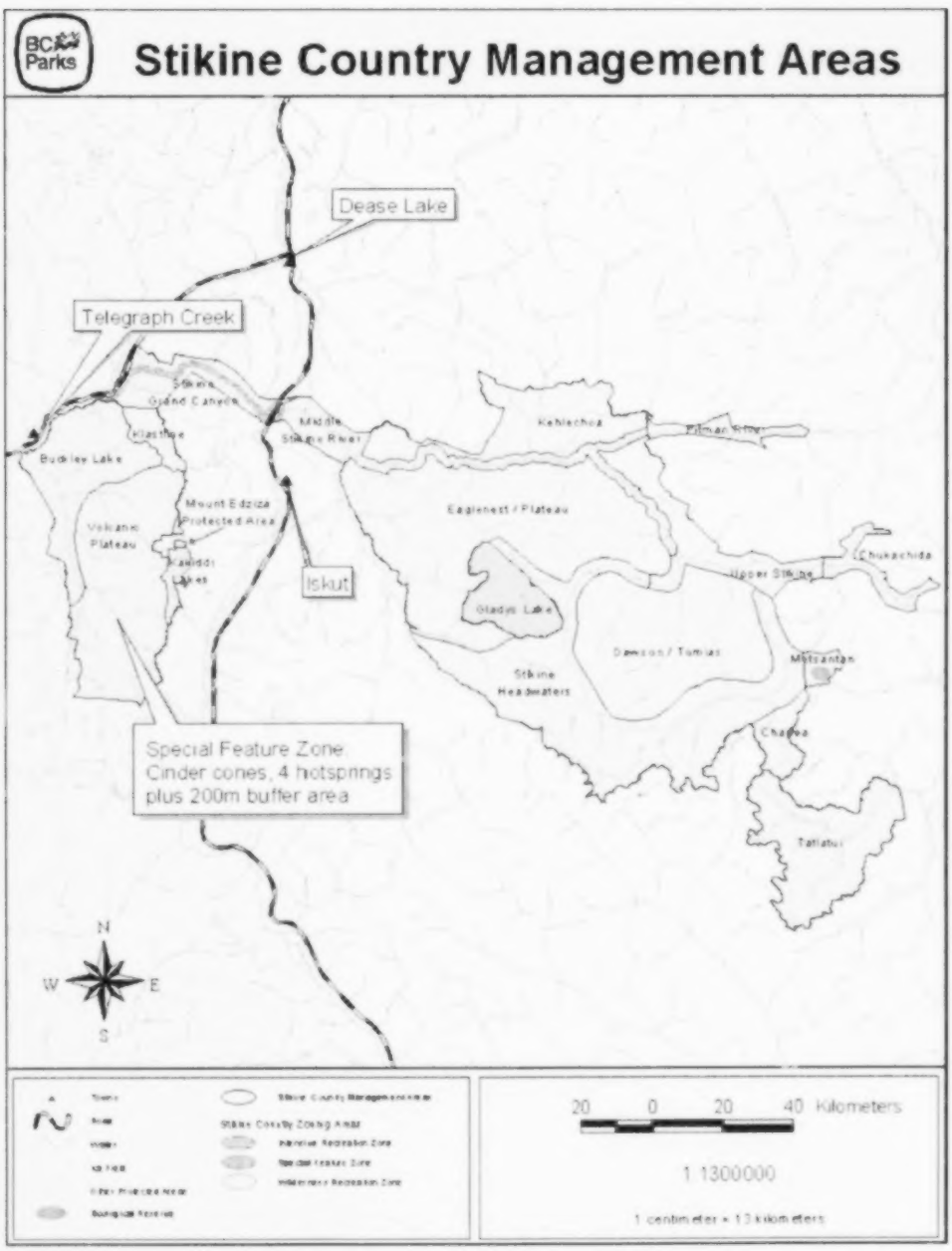
18a. Do you agree with the draft direction for the Management Areas?

Strongly Agree 14.84	**Agree 55.56**	**Disagree 18.52**	**Strongly Disagree 11.11**

Public Comments:

- Do not believe that there should be outboard motors allowed on the lakes.
- Trail access into and along the Grand Canyon from the Dease Lake –Telegraph road should be developed.
- There is very little done on inventory &/or mapping of plant communities in Tatlatui. Could this be added to the BC Parks inventory initiatives?
- In several places it is mentioned "…when roads are developed" the 'when' needs to read "if".
- Motorboat access presently exists on the Stikine & Spatsizi Rivers this should continue.
    - Gladys Lake should also have motorized boat access.
- Object to assuming that roads are a "given"
    - There should be other special feature zones e.g.: Lava Forks
    - Ningunsaw (sp?) is also an ecological reserve.
    - Much of the additional recreation use contemplated in the draft document is inconsistent with "wilderness recreation zone"
    - Planners need to reflect on the zoning and intent.
- Not in favour of flying below rim of Grand Canyon for reasons of safety & goat disturbance
    - In favour of limits being placed NOW on motorboat use above Beggarlay Canyon
    - Need to check whether Gladys Lake camp still belongs to UBC? – and to clarify Tahltan interest before considering destruction.
    - AGREE that Cold Fish be maintained for historical value and public use.
    - Keep BC Parks motorboat at Cold Fish Lake for emergency purposes only.
- Less emphasis on management and direction by Parks and more emphasis on use by residents of the province.
- The Volcanic Plateau should be zoned a special feature
- Ecological reserves must be kept intact and managed as originally intended – no development.
- Recreational activities should not be considered for the Gladys Lake ER.
    - The boundaries of the GLER should not be changed (effect historical base-line data).
- The pressure presently being wielded by existing guide/outfitters to move, eliminate or change the boundaries of Gladys Lake ER must be resisted at all costs.
    - In order to be an effective "benchmark", their integrity has to remain intact in order to be meaningful.
    - Also pretty bad precedent if the boundaries of BC's largest Ecoreserve were changed or the reserve eliminated!!
- The definition for "Natural Environment Zone" permits motorized access research shows clearly that Canadians do not regard landscapes with motorized vehicles in them as 'natural'.
- Hopefully motor boat & float plane use can be maintained or even decreased.
    - Keep BC Parks boat at Cold Fish Lake for emergency use only.

- If an area historically has had motorized use, then that area should not be zoned "wilderness". Natural Environment Zone allows protection and use to be combined.
- Should include ATV and snowmobile use on all the designated trail systems in the parks.
- The Natural Environment Zone should read "if the roads are developed", not "when".
    - See also Table page 58 (x 2) and page 56.



19 Other Ideas, Suggestions & Comments (from Surveys)

- on page 19 of the draft management plan there is a reference to assessing the mountain pine beetle attack & developing a strategy to manage that attack. This seems inconsistent with the GMD on page 16 re: natural disturbances??
- You can not please everybody – therefore it is very difficult to crate this balance.
    - Anything out of balance spells trouble – with so many different user groups I wish you luck and wisdom
    - Mining in any Park or sensitive area is to me, very questionable.
- The SCPA should be patrolled regularly.
- Resident access should be 1st priority.
    - Commercial and non-resident should be allowed access but no one or two elitist groups should be allowed to restrict access to another user group.
    - Do not let any one user group's intolerance of another user group cause BC Parks to impose rules which effect historic access by resident taxpayers.
- Gladys Lake ER should be expanded to include part of the Spatsizi Plateau, as per the original proposal (1973) and amendments (1974).
- 1st priority should be on protecting natural & cultural values recreation and commercial activity only be allowed when they do not impact these values.
- The Gladys Lake ER is a critical element of the system at a provincial and national level.
- Some wording around the importance of experiencing a "spiritual" relationship or connection to the land & the life that it supports.
- A good plan, as long as it can be implemented!
    - In the mean time, wildlife, vegetation and cultural inventories should be kept up-to-date before issuing any new commercial permits.
    - A very cautious approach should be taken regarding any potentially new commercial development – once they are "in", it is next to impossible to get them "out".
    - Therefore, any commercial permits should be time-limited and understood that they can be cancelled without compensation.
    - Any new commercial opportunity should not go to the highest bidder – there should be a process to give qualified local outfits an equal chance.
- A very good document – am in broad agreement with it. However,
    - Am very concerned about the items related to increased commercialization of the area.
    - It should not be drafted based on the particular whims of the political party presently in charge – remember, they come and go – but the residents remain and will so for many, many years. It should transcend politics.
    - Need to stick to the original vision – unspoilt wilderness values.
    - No expansion of commercial ventures should even be considered until all the studies, inventories, baseline information, carrying capacity assessments, etc. have been completed.
    - Any commercial use permits must be issued with the understanding that they can be withdrawn at any time, without compensation.

- If commercial opportunities are tendered – there must be a mechanism to give local residents, particularly FN, priority.

- This is a much-appreciated opportunity for input, however:
  - Seems this exercise is overly academic & focused on addressing FN issues & opportunities.
  - Seems process is being manipulated so that British Columbians are excluded.
  - Commercial interests … seem to be preferable?
- The Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park should remain, as the name implies, a wilderness!!
- Invite those who love and value this area as it is today to maintain trails & structures on a volunteer basis.
- I feel available funds should be directed in the following order:
  - Preservation of ecosystems (with or without public access);
  - Monitor natural and human activity & act when necessary;
  - Monitor research;
  - Provide or assist others (i.e.: First Nations) to provide education;
  - Provide and/or assist public access & facilities;
  - Allow and monitor commercial ventures should be of least importance, if at all.
- There is no need to allow further commercial invasion in these areas.
- Should focus on non-motorized, hiking access only. There are plenty of areas for the pampered tourist – these areas do not need to be one of them.
- Local northerners are in a much better position to plan for northern parks – the Richmond Open House really concerns me! I have yet to see an open house in the north regarding southern parks (or Stanley Park for that matter)!
- All in all, I like what I have read – it shows that there will be tolerance for all user groups.
  - It is important that BC Parks take a stand and maintain multi-uses in Parks.
  - The zoning of rivers should be kept the same as in the Babine River Park to accommodate motorized use.
- ATV's and snowmobiles should be part of the accepted modes of transportation. However, with restrictions to trails – not to run wild over the terrain.
- Net all the stocked trout in Buckley Lake and remove them.
  - This stocking is not acceptable.
  - Remove dock and prohibit access if it reoccurs.
  - Documents should be consistent in referring to First Nations or Aboriginals – choose one word and use it consistently.
  - The use of the term "cultural values" is confusing and ambiguous – best to say exactly what you mean.
- Mining should be possible in this area if done correctly – but it never is.
  - The penalties for breaking the rules are the cost of doing business – if you are caught.
- Some general comments:
  - 1. Assuming that "monitoring" (mentioned many, many times in the document) equates to time, effort and monies being spent by Parks, where will the $1,000,000+ come from. That $ figure was my very quick and dirty estimate of how much it might cost to do some of those things that are outlined in the document (i.e. monitor water quality, monitor effectiveness of habitat manipulation, monitor natural disturbances, etc).

- 2. On Page 20 there is reference to "managing" (implies action) caribou, sheep, goat, bears, wolves etc. Perhaps this is semantics, but there is no way anyone could "manage" things like wolves. We "manage" levels of human use. Using the term "manage" is also somewhat contrary to the statement (same page) of allowing natural fluctuations.
- 3. I have a note that the need for the Gladys Lake eco-reserve will be assessed. From a biological point, a non-hunted area is valuable in terms of being able to compare hunted to non-hunted populations.
- 4. Lastly, I don't feel that due consideration is being given to the impact that stricter controls/regulations that occur in Parks are having on areas outside of Parks. Carte blanche prohibitions on snowmobiles, heli-skiing, etc means that those activities are then directed to areas outside Parks. For example, IF there were an area inside a Park where heli-skiing would have no impact, why prohibit it's use and force the proponent to operate in areas outside the park where there may be higher resource values.

20 Comments from Written Submissions

A number of written submissions followed the same format as Newsletter No. 3. These have been incorporated into the appropriate sections of this summary report.

To follow are ideas and suggestions which have not been categorized – but recorded as they were reviewed. Every effort has been made to not repeat items already discussed in this document.

- Horses should not be allowed into Gladys Lake.
  - Keep the reserve only accessible by foot.
  - Keep the Backcountry Host Program in place.
- Wilderness zoning is inconsistent with motorized boat use.
  - On page 52 of the DMD newsletter, the "intent" of the Wilderness zone conveniently fails to mention that motorized boat use in not allowed in the Wilderness Recreation Zone.
  - Wilderness zoning of the rivers is not compatible with motorized use or the clear direction of the LRMP.
  - The Cassiar LRMP clearly states that motorized access for recreation & hunting will continue on the rivers of the Stikine Parks.
  - BC Parks is clearly not acting in good faith on this issue.
  - The rivers should be zoned as Natural Environment – like Babine River Wilderness Park.
  - The integrity of this planning process has been compromised – BC Parks is at risk of losing the support of the hunters, packers, guides and other park users who want fair and equal treatment.
- No commercial opportunities should be permitted in protected areas.
  - Commercial ventures must be regulated with quotas, timing, type of activity, etc. to prevent crowding, user conflicts, over-use, habitat damage, etc.
  - Annual contracts awarded by BC Parks should have no guarantee of tenure.
  - Not enough compensation for exclusive use of the resource is being returned to the crown.
  - Do not privatize Cold Fish camp.
- The Cassiar LRMP gives the direction for BC Parks to:
  "Continue to allow motorized boat use for recreation and hunting along the Stikine, Chukachida and Pitman Rivers, consistent with acceptable types and levels of use"
  - Would like reassurance (in writing) that these rivers will be zoned Natural Environment and not be changed to Wilderness Environment.
- Why does the draft MDP mention no new building construction in Tatlatui Park (verses the other parks)?
  - Most of the lakes in Tatlatui have to run with a motor boat due to their size and the need for safety.

- Glad to see the DMD states that the intent to "discontinue maintenance of the Gladys Lake trail and remove mention of that trail from all protected area brochures to discourage recreation use".
    - Please assure us that the Gladys Lake ER will remain intact and every effort will be made to reduce recreational use of it.
- Re: Grand Canyon of Stikine:
    - There should be no hunting for 500 meters of the rim – for a stretch between 5 kms above (East) of Site Z to approximately 15 kms below Tanzilla confluence.
    - There never has been a hunting tradition in the canyon – thus there is no established precedence.
    - Helicopter access should be by permit only – commercial set-downs should be isolated to either the top or bottom of Site Z.
    - Low river flying should be limited to sections where it can be shown that there are no goats.
- Re: Gladys Lake ER:
    - Protecting the ER may prove invaluable to population health of Stone's sheep in the Cassiar region.
- Re: Todoggone Mtn. Stone Sheep:
    - All management direction should be directed 1st towards herd stability and thus maternal range.
    - There is strong evidence that hunting pressures – mainly from Todoggone Lake trail along the south slope – has greatly curtailed the number of mature dominant rams in the fall rut. it may be necessary to secure a four-year moratorium on all trophy harvest.
    - Llamas should not be allowed unless scientific evidence proves otherwise.
    - Red Chris mine an open pit mine with continual regime of shelf-blasting will certainly displace the Todoggone Stone Sheep from their historical habitat.
- Charging less than provincial campgrounds (@ Cold Fish camp) is clearly unrealistic raise fees to whatever is required to camp to remain in public control.
    - No camping in Danihue Pass anyone who can hike the Eaglenest trail, can make it over the Danihue Pass in one day.
    - Do not believe that the ER should be compromised for the convenience of recreationists.
- BC Parks should monitor the over-grazing situation and charge outfitters for rehabilitation and clean-up costs of damage they cause to the park – the situation at Bates Camp should never have been allowed to happen.
- Private/public partnership has no place in Spatsizi Park.
- Friends of ER's support elimination of trail riding in Gladys Lake ER.
- Please add the route through the ER via Kettlehole Pass also be removed from any existing (or future) maps and brochures.

ANNEX A

Workshop Minutes

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS:

Dease Lake

Terrace

Smithers

Vancouver / Richmond

STIKINE COUNTRY PROTECTED AREAS
DEASE LAKE WORKSHOP / MARCH 12TH, 2002

AGENDA:

- Introduction - *Peter*
- Community & Cultural Heritage
- Ecosystem
- Fish & Wildlife
- Access / Facilities
- Recreation
- Zoning & Management Areas

? 7 attendees (@ 10 AM)

OPENING COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

? Concern that BC Parks should not imply that areas have "unknown" historic FN use ↙ there has obviously been lots of FN traditional use throughout the whole study area. This is already documented & should be incorporated in to the planning process

? Concern regarding industrial development within & without parks ↙ the protected areas should be considered "protected" until such time as there are well defined industrial development plans. BC Parks should act to protect park values

? Need to identify impacts that could occur in parks from industrial development outside parks

? Need to manage ELUC PA's as parks & ensure rigorous review before decisions made ↙ BC Parks should represent park values in the review process

? Some draft MD Statements for smaller parks imply that it is a foregone conclusion that industrial development / access will occur at some point ↙ need to play down

? Question regarding how "zones / management areas" were determined ↙ BC Parks reiterated that this is a 1st draft and will change pursuant to public comments

? Are the guide outfitters going to be contacted directly to discuss ↙ yes

? Is there an MOU with the Tahltan Band? ↙ yes, there is an agreement between Tahltan Joint Council and there is a joint management committee. Minutes may be available through the Band office and/or BC Parks office. Copies of the agreement are available

? Concern expressed about predator control within protected areas ↙ it needs to be done in order to maintain wildlife populations (mostly wolf concerns)

? How can we manage or control our resources when we do not know what is there ↙ need for more / better inventories of wildlife (most inventory data is at least 10 years old) ↙ BC Parks agree that this is a real concern

? Inventories must be done in conjunction with local residents, the Tahltan Band and guide outfitters

? Need for better information exchange between local residents and who is doing what? Need for better information to get to the local residents and not just the Band offices. ↙ need for wider consultation than just government to government offices ↙ i.e.: technical park boundaries were decided in Smithers and the Iskut Hot Springs were not in fact within the Protected Area!

? Need for more transparency in the planning process

? Reference was made regarding a recent Yukon study dealing with wolf populations & predator trends (BC Parks to source)

? Who is paying for all of this? ↙ are we collecting enough monies from those visiting the protected areas? How are we going to pay for the management of the park system? ↙ BC Parks responded that yes, it is a real concern and BC Parks is looking at ways and means to reduce costs & increase revenue (i.e.: collect some form of user fees)

? User fees, permit fees should be directed back to those PAs that are generating the revenue

? Suggested that the Cold Fish camp should be privatized (or a joint venture with Parks?) and quality guiding services should be provided ↙ therefore improving the opportunity to generated increased revenue for the management of the park system ↙ note that the Nature Trust owns the land

- Concern that the plan for the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve looks too restrictive ← i.e.: no access at all. It should be better utilized ← response from BC Parks noted that they do not have any other option as it is an "Ecological Reserve". They are in no position to increase use in this area
- Guide outfitters pay a park use fee, why do the general public not have to pay a fee? ← should we not charge the general public a fee which goes directly back to the management of the park system
- Concern that there is perhaps too much development at Cold Fish Lake due to it's proximity to Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve ← there is a need for a better representation of park values
- Can the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve be moved to a better location? Is it the best site?
- Comment made that there is absolutely no difference between sheep within the Eco Reserve, and those outside the ER
- Comment made that Dave Hailer has done some work regarding the history & use of the Gladys Lake ER
- Regarding building revenue ← some type of user-fees should be initiated ← Perhaps user-fee for access on the rail-grade (share revenues with Tahltan Band)?
- Have frontcountry parks help pay for backcountry parks
- The document – on the whole – may be viewed as the sharp edge of a move towards more and additional restrictive policies for commercial operations
- There is a need for a clear explanation of the purpose of this "draft" document in the beginning (as well as on the web page and any other media)

COMMENTS BY PRODUCT

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
Community & Cultural Heritage ***(Sections 1, 3)***	• Wording of GMD for FN states "...interests are fully considered" whereas the GMD for local communities states they can "...provide advice" ← inconsistent language (& intent?) • Need to prioritize the overall GMD goals and objectives ← hierarchy of priorities for park management i.e.: ecosystem *preservation* to take precedence over *recreation* • It is unclear as to which GMD takes precedence over others? • There is a need for more information & interpretive signing along the #37 corridor • There are some opportunities for walking & hiking circle tours that are ½ or full day trips
Recreation & Commercial Recreation ***(16 & 17)***	• There is room to encourage the development of a couple major, destination lodges (perhaps outside park boundaries but with easy access to high value areas) • Question: Why shouldn't larger commercial facilities be allowed within park boundaries (assuming all environmental integrity is maintained)? • There is real opportunity for commercial rafting on the Upper Stikine, Spatsizi, & Klappan • There is a potential source of conflict on the upper Stikine between jet boats and float craft ← perhaps alternate access days – odd days, jet / even days, float craft • Need to be cognizant that potential new uses of park features may be in conflict with historical use • Boating: concern expressed that BC Parks, in stating that they may take their boat out of Cold Fish Lake ← may have down stream intent to limit or exclude any motor boats on the lake

	? Horse Use: concern expressed that horses are a historic and integral part of the northern BC experience and they not be overly restricted or regulated ? Lama Use: concern that present Lama restrictions are not considered valid. The BC Veterinarian states that there "may" be a risk of disease transference to Stone Sheep. It is suggested that, pending additional science which may, or may not support this theory ← the issue of Lama packing will be revisited. ? need to add line in MDS that the issue of Lama packing "...may be revisited if it can be demonstrated that there is no risk to the sheep population"
Access ***(14, 16)***	? Concern expressed regarding severe limitations of access (animal assisted &/or motorized) into the park system ← how can we promote higher use, yet limit access? ? Snowmobile restrictions by Parks are not in keeping with LRMP direction ← BC Parks stated that in fact the LRMP does recommend restricted snowmobile access. Also feel that there is substantial potential for snow machine – wildlife conflicts ? Concern that BC Parks is not doing enough to encourage use of frontcountry parks. The development of access trails from #37 to unique features would help to slow tourists down and get them to stay longer in the area i.e.: interpretive boardwalk into Nasteline Falls and/or Iskut Hot Springs ? There are a lot of front country tourism opportunities that are outside the formal park system ← should refer to the Iskut-Stikine Tourism Opportunity Study for additional ideas ? Re: Air access ← what constitutes a "sensitive area" (see 2nd bullet under Air Access)? ? Establishing height minimums and flight paths in northern BC is quite unrealistic ? Appears a problem is being identified where there really is not problem in the first place ← need to check the wording so that it reflects a more open consultation process ? Trails into Gladys Lake ER are grandfathered into the ER agreement ? May consider taking out the existing Gladys Lake cabin as it attracts visitors into the ER ← concern expressed that BC Parks may not have any right to take out the cabin? Either way, the Tahltan must be consulted ? Concern that there should not be any access into an ecological reserve ← otherwise defeating the purpose of the ER in the first place. Should the ER be re-configured so that the existing trails do not fall in the ER (due the fact that they are legislated boundaries, there is little hope that boundaries can be changed) ? Provide additional interpretive media for remote parks (web pages, interpretive sites, easy access points i.e.: canyon & bridge area
Facilities	? No comments
Fish & Wildlife ***(7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13)***	? May be able to increase park use (& revenues) by allowing outfitters additional game tags (higher quota) = additional clients/revenues ? Need additional inventories for all wildlife ? Page 29 – change "jet boat use" to "motorized boat use" ? Page 25 – may need to change the wording regarding grizzly habitat and the ability to maintain a viable population ← need to clarify that the Stikine Country Protected Areas may not be large enough to support long-term viable grizzly population by themselves (grizzly habitat probably extends beyond the protected area)

	? Page 23 – move specific park recommendations to park specific section ? Move Mule Deer comments into the strategy section ? Add qualifier regarding hunting may be considered pending Mule Deer population inventory data being generated
Zoning	? No comments

STIKINE COUNTRY PROTECTED AREAS
TERRACE WORKSHOP / MARCH 14TH, 2002

AGENDA:

- Introduction - *Peter*
- Community & Cultural Heritage
- Ecosystem
- Fish & Wildlife
- Access / Facilities
- Recreation
- Zoning & Management Areas

? 4 attendees @ 11 AM / 2 attendees @ 2 PM

OPENING COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

? Here to find out what is going on – hiker, fisher – interested resident

? We should discuss "the future" & "where are things going" of BC Parks pursuant to the wholesale changes that are occurring in BC at the moment

? Concern express regarding the protection of obsidian sites, especially outside (south) of Mount Edziza Park – and the movement of obsidian from one location to another

? Q: Are these plans subject to change pending feedback on an ongoing basis (i.e.: fish have been introduced to Buckley Lake when there were few fish in the first place. Parks must therefore plan for 'fishing' as a new activity)? ✍ this plan will provide broad direction for the management of parks for about the next ten years. Objectives and actions may be modified due to new data & information being made available.

? Q: Should the stocked fish in Bulkley Lake be fished-out in consideration that they are an introduced species (Rainbow) ✍ it was suggested that the introduced Rainbow be managed as an important resource on an on-going basis

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COMMENTS BY CATEGORY/PRODUCT

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
Community & Cultural Heritage (Sections 1, 3)	Note: adjust wording to ensure FN & non-FN have equal priority regarding consultation in Section 3. ? There are a number of old placer sites, old cabins etc. Does this section apply to both FN & non-FN historic sites? ✍ Yes. BC Parks would like to improve their inventory of both FN & non-FN historical sites and/or facilities. BC Parks would like to accommodate public use – while at the same time protecting the unique features ? Example given regarding Telegraph Creek & Glenora and the fact that at one point there were about 12 – 14,000 people located in Glenora during the 1890's gold rush ? Must maintain an interpretation and awareness building plan for all historic sites (i.e.: improved interpretative signing) ? Need to fight hard to ensure that the parks system does not loose it's interpretation abilities! ✍ Peter suggested that "interpretation" should be beefed up in the draft management plan
Commercial Recreation (17)	? Once commercial tenure has been awarded to the private sector, and pending increased public use, how could you take tenure back should it be required in order to maintain the objectives and management direction? ? Suggestion that tenures (i.e.: guide-outfitting) should be "rented" from the province. When the tenure holder passes on or retires – the tenure reverts back to the Crown for them to consider the next tenure holder

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	? Peter gave the example of the Babine River and the types of rafting tenure being offered ? Hugh explained the "non-transferable" nature of commercial tenures within protected areas and that BC Parks are trying to avoid the "tragedy of the commons" ? Consider short-term tenures that are opened up for bids say, every two years? ✍ BC Parks responded that they generally look at short-term tenures in the beginning and that pending some track record of performance, longer-term tenures are then considered. Perhaps there is a way to stage the tenure terms over a number of years ? Manage parks so that the protection of the resource must be paramount to all other opportunities. Do not be sucked into the whole revenue generating objectives if the resource values become at risk ($ does not rule the day!)
Ecosystem (2, 4, 5, 6)	? The ecosystems in the park system are so large that they are hard to plan for comprehensively. Planning to date is kind of broad-brush in nature ? Snapshot studies can not meet the need for ecosystem planning ✍ studies must look at the larger picture, and on a longer-term, in order to effectively get a handle on the whole system
Fish & Wildlife (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13)	? Peter explained what a "predator-prey" system is & walked through the appropriate sections ? Point was made that while it was believed that wolves were the problem with declining Caribou numbers in Spatsizi – it turned out that it was the Wolverine killing the calves at calving grounds ✍ point is, that the ecosystems are huge and difficult to plan for ? Point made that inventories should be updated every 5 years or so ? At present, wildlife inventories are about 10 years old ? Perhaps add "unique" to the 'rare & sensitive' discussion and to some of the wildlife issues (i.e.: the melanistic (black in colour) chipmunks located on the west side of Tatlatui) ? Page 22 middle: flesh out the bullet which reads *"monitor impacts of natural disturbances on caribou winter habitats"* ✍ need to better explain that the caribou are the general "touchstone" species for the area ? Make note that hunting and fishing activities will be managed pursuant to population and health of the species – extraction may be allowed or not allowed. Wording to state that allowance to hunt/fish will be reviewed on an on-going basis ? Re: aquatics ✍ the Lake Trout in Coldfish Lake should be permitted as catch and release only due to the feeling that the population is very small and fish extremely mature (i.e.: one trout caught was determined to be 17 years old) ? Artic Grayling are present and should receive some type of special mention & planning effort as a unique species ✍ they are an enigma to the region ? The allocation of rod-days is a new concept for BC Parks but might be considered if use levels merit it ? Suggested that *limited entry* be considered for at-risk aquatic species as an effective tool for managing fsh populations
Access (14)	***Air Access*** ? Q: Page 35: ✍ why limit wheeled aircraft access to Coldfish? ✍ folk can still land

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	but the airstrip will not be maintained ✍ need to clarify in the wording, i.e.: "*... wheeled aircraft are permitted to land pursuant to having general permission to fly into the park and are to be advised as to the hazardous conditions.....*"
	? Q: Page 35: ✍ how would BC Parks actually *discourage landings* for "inexperienced pilots" landing on the Firesteel River? ✍ suggested that we take this statement out of any management statements
	? Q: Page 34, top bullet: should specific flight paths be pre-determined? ✍ BC Parks stated that this may in fact not be practical due to northern mountain flying conditions
	? ✍ there is a need to further flesh-out a strategy regarding air access and routing of such. This may take the form of "best practices" or a "code of conduct" regarding flying in protected areas
	? perhaps develop a listing of lakes which are not under stress and where plane landings are o.k.?
	? BC Heli-ski Association may have some sample *code of conduct* or *best practice* samples for BC Parks to review as sample approaches to the issue
	Roads
	? Peter explained that, with minor exceptions, there are no plans for any additional roads within the protected areas. BC Parks will do their best to review road development plans outside of the PA's and what potential impact these roads may, or may not, have on the protected area
	? Safety would be improved by having some limited, yet maintained, road access into parks
	? Q: is BC Parks involved with the planned road into Kemess mine? – Yes.
	? Page 37, re: BC rail grade ✍ should change writing to recognize the non-FN & commercial partnership opportunities to cooperatively work together to keep the BC rail grade open & safe
	Snowmobiles (& other motorized/mechanized)
	? Need to clarify direction on motorized & mechanized use / access in the protected areas
	? Perhaps add statement regarding working with the Feds with regards to areas where they have a higher level of jurisdiction ✍ i.e.: try to stop any access of jet skis on any rivers in protected areas
Facilities (15)	? Peter explained BC Parks thoughts on build facilities i.e.: no large destination lodges but perhaps a limited hut-to-hut system, or small lodge type of facility might be considered (?) if environmental impacts are minimal
	? While BC Parks is not going to "encourage" commercial development activity – it would review applications for small, environmentally sustainable commercial development
Recreation (16)	? No comments at this time
Zoning	? the "wilderness conservation" zone should be added to the text, even if there are none of these zones in the protected areas at the present moment

STIKINE COUNTRY PROTECTED AREAS
SMITHERS WORKSHOP / MARCH 15TH, 2002

- Introduction – *Peter/Stuart*
- Community & Cultural Heritage
- Ecosystem
- Fish & Wildlife
- Access / Facilities
- Recreation
- Zoning & Management Areas

? about 24 @ 9 AM

OPENING COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

? Are people considered a part of the large predator-prey system? ✍ yes

? How has BC Parks balanced the commercial & recreation use of an area verses wildlife values? There is such a thing as "people pollution"!

? How did the specific management areas boundaries come about? Who was involved? ✍ Peter explained that they are the 1st attempt by BC Parks and are wide open to suggestions on how the boundaries might be adjus ted

? There is some concern that the overall document is too focused on First Nations people and opportunity and there is a need to make the management plan more focused on the non-FN

? Comment that BC Parks has to get into the field and actually "do it", and not just continue to plan for the sake of planning

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COMMENTS BY CATEGORY/PRODUCT

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
Community & Cultural Heritage (Sections 1, 3)	? Peter noted that BC Parks will amend the GMD's for Section 3 so that local communities and FN share an equal level of priority re: consultation (i.e.: "advice" verses "...fully considered") ? Concern expressed that the document reads very First Nations oriented, and not enough attention paid to non-first nations interests ? Page 51: shouldn't there be more emphasis on allowing local residents an equal and fair opportunity to develop commercial recreation projects? ✍ BC Parks can however, try to ensure that commercial proposals meet the interests of local communities. Could range from offering an RFP to the international market – to ensuring the scale of the operation is small in nature for easy local opportunity
Commercial Recreation (17)	? Q: What is the definition of "competitive"? ✍ *competitive* means that the process is open and transparent. Potential opportunity will be advertised to the general public. ? Q: Would BC Parks request money directly from the proponent? ✍ yes, financial considerations (return to the Crown) will form part of any commercial opportunity. There is concern that large, outside companies would have the opportunity to purchase all of the opportunities and therefore cut-out local operators (financial barriers of access to commercial recreation permits & allocations) ? Would like BC Parks to adopt a "qualification criteria/system" like the Parks Canada uses. I.e.: limit backcountry guides to certified Mountain Guides. ✍ required to ensure quality and safety of the backcountry experience. Concern that at the end of the day, money/revenue is not the only decision making issue ? The process, criteria and private sector application process must be open to the public and transparent ? Q: what do BC Parks feel as an optimal carrying capacity for float craft on protected area

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	rivers? ✍ Peter gave the example of the Babine River (2 days/week for private trips / 2 days for commercial / 2 days for the resource). Many other ways to address this issue and it is agreed that there must be an effective and efficient process ? Concern that BC Parks needs to ensure that the quality of the experience plays a fundamental role in determining any additional commercial tenures ? Concern that BC Parks is too proactively after additional commercial operators (i.e.: advertising to large off shore tourism operators). Suggest that any increase in specific activity be incremental in order to ensure a conservative approach. Slow growth with monitoring so that we do not exceed carrying capacity and then have to cut-back ? Concern that additional commercial opportunities are not permitted until such time as there is solid base line resource data/information with which to work with ✍ Dave Z. explained how the 'backcountry recreation assessments' are undertaken every year or two ✍ Lyle explained that BC Parks are presently generating wildlife population numbers through a general trend analysis ? Concern expressed that one can not force commercial operators to cut-back without having them demand some type of compensation ✍ Christoph explained that all of his park use permits very strictly state that the permit can be removed without any compensation o It was considered that commercial operators are perhaps easier to control than the public o It is suggested that general public use levels be closely monitored and regulated ? Concern expressed regarding the carrying capacity for rafting be linked to the size of the whole rafting group (i.e.: max of 10 people) ? Q: is BC Parks in a position, and/or have the capacity, to actually monitor use levels? ✍ short answer = we don't know. o However, monitoring is one of the major objectives of the 'new & improved' mandate of BC Parks. Planning, monitoring and enforcement is a high priority. BC Parks is interested in looking at creative ways to meet their objectives (i.e.: resource out of office) ? Concern regarding the potential for a *"public/private partnership for Coldfish Lake camp"*. This does not meet the original objectives of the camp (i.e.: for the public) and may be considered an abuse of the original intent of the camp ✍ BC Parks has been in discussions with Nature Trust who are open to discuss this subject. Parks must find a creative way to increase revenues. In any event, the public will have to pay more.
Ecosystem ***(2, 4, 5, 6)***	? Q: re: road access – are there some provisions which allow road development within protected areas? ✍ yes, the LRMP did recommend this option, pursuant to provincial environmental assessment o Risks must be managed for! ? Q: water quality – is there a plan which provides clear policies regarding clean up and/or punitive action should a hazardous spill occur? ✍ yes, when road development permits are considered, appropriate controls, provisions and safe guards would be put in place (i.e. bonding, etc.) ? Q: are roads going to be public or gated? ✍ not set in stone - refer back to the LRMP to confirm that some roads would be gated. This would be considered during the road development process ? Q: has there been any thought to provide structured orientation session which would be required prior to entering the system? ✍ BC Parks extension program has been eliminated recently so it is unlikely that this would be feasible, even though it is a worthwhile idea. Must

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	be creative and work cooperatively in order to address this issue ? Q: regarding road access for mines through the Mt. Edziza Protected Area (small deleted area) to the Mt. Edziza Zone (which will be excluded from the protected area system) ? Q: is there a road proposed to cross the Pitman or Chuckachida? ✍ at this time, there are no plans to build a road or bridges
Wildlife (7, 8, 9, 10, 11)	? Page 28: perhaps not use the word "encourage" re: "...to avoid using known high value sensitive habitats". Can BC Parks not close access to these areas? ✍ perhaps this should be considered but it is questionable as to whether BC Parks will have the staff or budget to close areas o Would like to see that all access to sensitive habitat areas be closed ? Page 23: how are BC Parks going to monitor population status of the main large animal species? It is most important ✍ BC Parks do not know. Budget realities will not allow this at present. ? Page 25: grizzly bears are not a rare or sensitive species? ✍ perhaps use the term "vulnerable" ? Strong direction for government to undertake population inventories of all species within the protected areas. Funding must be found and ear-marked ? Perhaps add strong objective which states the importance of undertaking scientific population inventories and data development to support management decisions ? Reminder to change reference to grizzly bear range (page 25) ? Q: what are the policies regarding fire? ✍ only attempt to put out fires when specific structures are at risk or if there is risk to commercial activities outside park boundaries. Agree that BC Parks should further develop a fire management regime ? Q: what is the policy regarding pine beetle infestation? ✍ generally not a problem in northern parks due to cold temperatures. Would probably manage if commercial timber was threatened but would probably let it happen naturally if it occurred within a protected area ? Page 17, 3rd bullet: why does it specifically refer to "hunting"? ✍ intent to clearly state that BC Parks will not manage population in order to increase population numbers o Perhaps soften the language to "human or recreation use – i.e.: hunting or wildlife viewing" ✍ this may take the focus off of hunting ? Page 24: BC Parks policies on wildlife hunting management & policies are too vague – BC Parks should reference the Wildlife Branch policies and standards – and state it clearly & with intent ✍ this should be addressed with the new structure of the BC agencies o Should maybe insist that Wildlife Branch policies are firmly utilized instead of making new policies and/or watering-down of such
Aquatics (12, 13)	? Q: re: Bull Trout – are there plans for regulation of? ✍ perhaps in some lakes due to sensitivity of Bull Trout to angling. Perhaps some limited entry for certain times of the year, etc. ? Perhaps more thought should go into the potential stocking of lakes ✍ if considered it should recognize and plan for the potential of other genetic materials (non-indigenous) being introduced to the system ? Page 30: re: managing angling guide activities - what exactly is BC Parks after? ✍ BC Parks are looking to ensure the quality of experience and therefore looking at management objectives & regimes such as limited entry, rod days, etc. so that the quality of experience is secured over time o BC Parks may look at re-jigging rod days to allow for better management

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	regimes o Looking at defining clear objectives for long term security ? Before more rod days or angling permits are considered, BC Parks needs to get a better handle on population inventories. Consider carrying capacity 'experiential' & fish population in allocating fish quota ? Should state that the "...number of angling guides will not be increased" instead of stating that they will "maintain" the number presently operating ? Would float trips that have clients who want to try fishing need an angling guide license? ✍ yes, any guided trip would require a angling guide license o What about float planes & fishing clients? o If you are promoting guided fishing trips, yes you would need a park use permit & angling guide license o NOTE: any commercial activity would require a park use permit ? Definitely need to clarify the definition of what makes you "an angling guide". This is a very confusing situation that needs to be clarified for all types of operators (canoe, raft, hiking, float plane, etc.) ? Concern that BC Parks policies are focusing on the commercial side of things and that local residents get whatever is left over – suggested that BC Parks firstly determine the size and health of the stock, and then try and set allocation levels for public & commercial ? Most of the lakes & river systems are not accessible by road – so, with the present difficulty to access these areas the "concern" for carrying capacity may not really be an issue at the moment ? Need carrying capacity work done now, before there is an issue, in order to plan into the future
Access (14)	FIXED WING & HELICOPTER ? Point made that it is unrealistic to expect firm flight paths, as northern flying must be able to adjust for weather, etc. ✍ too prohibitive ? The restrictions for the Grand Canyon of the Stikine are satisfactory ? Pilots would like to see relatively few restrictions as a safety precaution ? Should make sure that aviation charts are clearly marked with all sensitive areas i.e.: noise sensitive areas, etc. ✍ however, this will only work for some species and at certain times of year ? Point made that helicopters have a much different impact than fixed-wing aircraft ? Instead of "regulating" float planes, we should focus on "education" of pilots ? The potential disturbance of "human solitude" should be accounted for as well ? Perhaps recognize wheeled planes as well as float planes in the MDS. Change "Floatplanes" to "Fixed wing" at the beginning of the MDS ? Will helicopter landing policies apply to the portage of rafts or canoes? ✍ perhaps need to re-think the term "prohibit" when reviewing applications to for multiple landings ? Is there really a need for any helicopter access into Spatsizi? ? Note: need to update names of areas banned to helicopter access (top of page 35) ? There is a need for a more defined management direction statement for helicopter access verses complete restriction to Heli-access ? Should restrict helicopter access to Spatsizi for recreation purposes

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	? Need to recognize exceptional needs i.e.: safety, research, transportation of goods, etc. ? Do we really need to "*... implement a ban on helicopter landings at any hotsprings*"? Why not provide the opportunity to access Mess Lake Hotsprings? ✍ too sensitive an area? ? Is there a way to stream line the process to get a letter of authorization? ✍ it tends to be o.k. Monday to Friday but poses problems on weekends ✍ need for more flexible policies regarding fixed wing landing permits i.e.: seasonal permit / pass ? There is no reference regarding the use of aircraft for special events such as filming & film crews ? Page 34, bottom: re: monitoring use levels & visitor satisfaction ✍ want to remind us to be aware 'who' may be actually doing the complaining ROADS ? No comments SNOWMOBILES ? No comments
Facilities (15)	STRUCTURES ? Page 40: why do we have to remove cabins? ✍ if cabins are illegal in the 1st place or not maintained, BC Parks would like to see them removed (this includes old dumpsites, old stations, etc.) o Concern expressed that old cabins serve an emergency shelter function – therefore, why remove them? o Need to clarify what would constitute appropriate reasoning for the removal of older structures &/or cabins ? Need to clarify and expand definition of "cabins", "other facilities", and "structures" ? Some folk are really looking for a remote, pristine experience and whose values may be quite different than other's values (i.e.: no cabins verses some cabins for safety?) ? Some of the clean up required is premised on the desire to protect the public's safety ? Re: Gladys Lake cabin: there is considerable history regarding the cabin and has substantial heritage value ? Perhaps there is room for maintaining a number of older cabins based on a safety basis ? Do not remove cabins if they are strategically placed for potential safety allowances ? Page 39: re: "*... provided bed capacity remains the same*" ✍ this clause really limits the opportunity for existing operators to expand and grow o For any new commercial opportunities, it is felt that any new facilities should go to competitive tender – which any existing and/or potential operator can apply for o ✍ need to clarify the above statement and it's meaning TRAILS, ROUTES & CAMPSITES ? It would be very difficult to limit hiking access in Gladys Lake ER, especially considering it's convenient location to the Coldfish Lake camp ? Perhaps should provide and opportunity for a new location for an ecological reserve? ? Access to the Gladys Lake area should be maintained while the ecological integrity is retained. Backpackers do not have much impact, perhaps horses should not be allowed?
Recreation (16)	BACKCOUNTRY HIKING & MOUNTAINEERING ? no comments

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	MOTORBOATING ON RIVERS ? page 46, top of page, 2nd bullet ✍ need to clarify the Spatsizi Rivers closure dates & rationale ? why is the general public being restricted on the Spatsizi? ✍ the public should be consulted to a further degree ? why is the float craft sector being provided additional allowances? ✍ inequity? ? Point made that float craft and jet boating on the upper Spatsizi are not compatible – it is a safety issue ? Suggested that the upper Stikine and Spatsizi should be considered unique, world-class products and should be restricted to non-motorized ? It was pointed out that – to date – there have been very few instances where float craft have come across jet boats on the upper Spatsizi ? Perhaps can set access days/dates for both jet boating and/or canoes (float craft) so that there is equal access to the resource but conflict situations are minimized ? Need to recognize the safety issue at Beggerly Canyon (i.e. upstream jet boat meets downstream float craft) as well as Little Jewel rapids & Little Jewel Canyon ? Perhaps provide "rules of the waterways" MOTORBOATING ON LAKES ? page 46, second bullet: why is there a direction to eliminate the BC Parks boat on Coldfish Lake? ? Where did the motorized use on lakes issue come from? ✍ response stated that this is all part of long term planning for the park system. Historically, these parks did not allow any motorized use but this has been whittled down over the years. Perhaps there are some lakes that can handle a couple of boats, but there will be others where no motors are allowed ? Perhaps classify lakes (re: motors) related to the size of the lake in question ? Coldfish Lake requires a motorboat for safety purposes WINTER RECREATION ? What about dog sledding? HORSE USE & PACK ANIMALS ? Concern about horse damage to the trails at Coldfish Lake & Gladys Lake ✍ are there ways and means to allow for both horses & hiking ? Perhaps there is room for designated horse and/or hiking-only trails ? Much of these issues may be addressed through more effective communication with the general public with regards to realistic expectations of 'wilderness trails'

STIKINE COUNTRY PROTECTED AREAS
VANCOUVER WORKSHOP / MARCH 19TH, 2002

AGENDA

- Introduction – *Peter/Stuart*
- Community & Cultural Heritage
- Ecosystem
- Fish & Wildlife
- Access / Facilities
- Recreation
- Zoning & Management Areas

? 8 attendees @ 9 AM

OPENING COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

? Q: is the final product a management "plan" or management "direction"? ✍ yes, for the larger parks it is a management 'plan' with associated objectives, actions and details – for the smaller PA's, it will result in management 'direction' statements & objectives

? Q: how do you plan on monitoring the plan? ✍ there is quite a bit of direction in the draft MD to monitor use, access, impacts, etc. BC Parks have limited resources for monitoring. BC Parks is looking for creative solutions (i.e.: working with NGO's, stakeholders, user groups, etc.) to help monitor park use so that effective management of the park system will take place

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COMMENTS BY CATEGORY/PRODUCT

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
Community & Cultural Heritage (Sections 1, 3)	? There is no real mention regarding the involvement of the Kaska Dene people ✍ they have not been overly involved to-date nor have they expressed much interest so far. BC Parks said that they will make some more proactive efforts to ensure that the Kaska people have a fair opportunity to provide input into the planning process ? CPAWS in favour of specific funding targeted towards the BC Parks/Tahltan joint management agreement (i.e.: training) ? Q: What impact might the upcoming referendum have on this type of planning? ✍ we really do not know but it is suspected that there will be little impact on the joint management agreement. Perhaps there will be some impact on the overall broad direction statements for the parks system
Commercial Recreation (17)	? Page 51: Q: what is the status regarding the potential for commercial involvement in Cold Fish Lake camp? ✍ at present, BC Parks are not reviewing any formal proposals. BC Parks is facing significant funding challenges and are therefore looking at ways and means to increase revenues from Cold Fish camp so that the ongoing maintenance, improvements, etc. can be successfully maintained in the long run o BC Parks are open to review any form of proposal (i.e.: public/private partnerships) o BC Nature Trust would have to be consultant o Q: Would this compromise the ecological reserve? ✍ unknown at this time ? Q: re: commercial recreation "first come, first serve" basis – will the Tahltan be consulted and will they have specific opportunities for commercial involvement? ✍ yes, BC Parks will continue to consult with the Tahltan through their joint management agreement o Important to retain significant cultural & historic values ? Q: What is the history of the Cold Fish camp? Have there been any commercial issues to-date? ✍ so far, the cabins have been for recreation use only, not commercial. The only little commercial use is the Collingwood Bros. who do not use the cabins, just a few of the outbuildings for storage, etc. The odd private sector do utilize some facilities but this is well

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	managed and controlled on a use-by-use basis ? Comment: In the absence of any specific policy statements by the provincial government, CPAWS does not have a specific response regarding commercial activities (P_3 – public/private partnerships) within BC Parks ✍ BC Parks "hopes" that the management direction suggested by Smithers office will in fact be followed through by Victoria o Comment: there is clear direction from the province ✍ "we want more money" ? Comment: Given the present state of Cold Fish Lake camp, perhaps it does not make sense for BC Parks to under-right the ongoing operation of the camp. Perhaps the private sector should take over operation of the camp – recognizing that the general public must retain access to the camp o BC Parks ✍ while BC Parks owns the facilities, it does not own the land (Nature Trust) o CPAWS would have concerns if the plan was to develop some type of 'resort' at Cold Fish Lake ? Q: has anyone proposed a "conservation covenant" for the Cold Fish Lake (i.e.: an environmental NGO to be involved to ensure standards are maintained)? ✍ In essence, the Nature Trust/BC Parks agreement already recognizes the unique values of the area and have set limits/guidelines on what can, and what can not be done at Cold Fish ? The costs of running Cold Fish Lake camp (average of capital costs & annual expenses) = about $25,000 - $30,000/annum o Presently bringing in about $2,500 - $3,500 per year through $10/night fee o $10 fee can not be raised – at present – as it is tied to provincial BC Parks policy o BC Parks is just wanting to find a way to recover costs and not have to subsidize annual operations ? Page 51, MD statement: Q: what is meant by "...in balance where use levels are limited"? ✍ in general, BC Parks is looking at an equal share of private/public use ? Q: Are there any problems with finding enough volunteers at present? ✍ not really, lots of interest and lots of potential volunteers on the BC Parks list (about a 3 yr waiting list)
Ecosystem (2, 4, 5, 6)	? Page 17 Q: re: habitat manipulation: there is a species of plant that is taking over the natural food for the moose population. Is BC Parks doing anything to address this? ✍ if the plant in question is natural to the area, the short answer is no. BC Park's objective is not to manage to maximize population levels – but rather to manage wildlife habitat only if the species is in peril o It would be useful to have someinformation and data regarding "invasive species" ✍ BC Parks does have information on invasive species and has done a recent inventory for the northern parks. BC Parks will be addressing this issue this summer. There are no invasive species known to be in the park system at this time ? Comment: Need to ensure that baseline inventories are in place to support research & monitoring ? Q: Is there any concern over the fresh water mussel? ✍ no problem at present ? Q: Are there any signs posted regarding milfoil or fresh water mussels? ✍ not at present – but should be considered given increased use and access to area
Wildlife (7, 8, 9, 10, 11)	? Q: there are a lot of references to 'inventories & research' – is there funding in place to pull this off? ✍ basically do not know! BC Parks is looking at creative ways to address these issues. If at the end of the day there are no funds, so be it. However, in creating a

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	management plan one cannot plan for failure, but rather plan for desired objectives. BC Parks stated that they are presently undertaking an analysis of northern parks and the specific inventory needs. BC Parks will therefore have a list of required research & inventory projects ? As commercial activity increases, there is a growing need for comprehensive base-line data to ensure that commercial opportunities are well controlled and planned for ? It was noted that it is appreciated that "some" objectives have time-lines tied to them. It is encouraged that BC Parks add additional time-lines tied to specific objectives and actions ? Q: Are there other agencies involved in wildlife management? ✍ interesting to note that in the very recent restructuring of government agencies, BC Parks is now part of the same office as the old wildlife branch & fisheries branch. This is considered a very positive change. ? Comment: it appears that the government is off-loading the need for research and planning to the NGO community. This is not good, there is a need for the responsibility for research and inventories to remain the responsibility of the provincial government ? Guide-outfitters are a good and existing source of data & information ? Comment: if a commercial operator is looking at developing products outside park boundaries, the province can make them undertake all sorts of studies. Why can we not ask the private sector, operating within a park, to pay more of a fee to the park for research & inventory purposes? ? There is a need to educate users on key PA values - & perhaps encouraging them to support the science required to manage the park system ? There is a need for additional access to existing government data in order to ensure that the required studies are qualified ? Some concern that if the private sector becomes more responsible for the collection and development of research & data – there may be a real concern regarding potential for "bias" of results ? Suggested that provincial biologists oversee any research activities that are undertaken through a public/private partnership ? Q: is poaching a problem up north? ✍ not too sure due to the size of the area but parks staff have not seen much evidence of this
Aquatics (12, 13)	? Comment: as a preface for both wildlife & aquatics, it should be recognized that these resources provide a substantial 'required source of protein' for many local residents. Indigenous fauna and flora are key food sources in northern communities. This is becoming a key point on some land use tables and should be a linkage that is recognized within the final protected area plan ? Page 30: re: illegal stocked trout in Buckley Lake. Is there a lot of this going on? ✍ it is an historical issue. It is suggested that it be managed as an ongoing resource (verses fish them out & returning the lake to original state) o Historically this lake has never had any indigenous fish. So, there is not a lot of concern regarding this introduced species o Q: are there any concerns regarding fish parasites? ✍ none known at this time ? To clarify, Trygve Lake is open for resident angling but not for any commercial use ? Q: What is the status of the Firesteel River? ✍ there is some concern regarding over-fishing of the resource. Therefore monitoring of fishing activity is desired ? Comment: BC Fisheries branch must have some clearly defined policies that BC Parks can utilize? ✍ yes, BC Parks does recognize and implement BC Fisheries policies – just more

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	conservatively o BC Parks also stated that within a park, planning also recognizes the need to protect the "overall park experience", as well as the resource
Access (14)	FIXED WING & HELICOPTER ? Q: how are you going to implement the suggested air access programs? ✍ air access must receive prior authorization before entering the park system. BC Parks would like to establish some type of ongoing regime, in consultation with the BC Floatplane Association, which arrives at an approach which meets the needs of users & stakeholders o Blanket approval would be better than flight-by-flight authorisation o Comment: in regard to getting access authorization – while week days are fine, the weekends are a difficult time to get through to BC Parks staff ? Comment: park boundaries are not on aeronautical charts. Need to get parks, as well as highly sensitive areas onto aviation charts ? Q: at this time, prior authorization is required, do we also need "acceptance"? ✍ yes, the policy is written that you do need 'acceptance' by BC Parks as well as authorization ? Comment: BC Parks have no authority over aviation airspace. ✍ however, adding comments to charts would be a good idea. Perhaps through the BC Aviation Council who prepare information bulletins for distribution to pilots ? To actually get comments built into aeronautical charts, must deal with the Federal Government – who prepare the charts. Perhaps not easy to do, but worth going after! o Suggested that specifics are not noted (i.e.: calving season), but rather general polygons showing high and mid 'sensitive' areas (do not want to highlight "calving viewing" areas!) ? Suggestion: check with WTA regarding their codes of practice/conduct about flights into sensitive areas? – might be some useful ideas ? Suggestion: all of this information should be available on web sites for reference for pilots. Flying information could be linked with the BC Floatplane Association's web site ? Required authorization for air access parks is presently only targeted at a limited number of parks (Stikine Country included) ? Q: re: access to certain lakes. Are there some specific actions that BC Parks want to take right now? ✍ not at present. However, there may be some very solid ecological reasons for limiting air access to specific lakes within the system ? Air access restrictions will most likely be tied to motor boat access restrictions ? If air/motor access is limited, it should be considered along with what other type of access is available (i.e.: near trails, near landing strip, etc.) ROADS ? BC Parks – it appears unanimous that road access directly into the Protected Area is not desired ? No comments from delegates SNOWMOBILES ? BC Parks – generally very low level of snow machine use within the park system ? Traditional trails are now being used for snow machines. This "may" lead to issues down the road
Facilities (15)	STRUCTURES ? Suggestion: get together will other stakeholders (BCFA, user groups) in order to clean up

DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	COMMENTS
	sites – "stewardship projects" ? Q: who decides which ones go, and which stay? ✍ BC Parks responsibility but would undergo consultations with private operators and other interested parties TRAILS, ROUTES & CAMPSITES ? Some concern that the integrity of Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve may be at risk ? Q: has there been deterioration of the ER? ✍ yes, to a degree. Some horse-use has resulted in trail deterioration
Recreation (16)	? Perhaps add a specific reference regarding ATV's not being allowed in the park system BACKCOUNTRY HIKING & MOUNTAINEERING ? No comments MOTORBOATING ON RIVERS ? No comments MOTORBOATING ON LAKES ? Generally agreed upon that the BC Parks boat on Cold Fish Lake should be maintained for safety purposes only o perhaps change wording to better illustrate that the BC Parks boat is 'not for recreation purposes' ? There needs to be clarification regarding the types of motor boats and their use (i.e.: electric verses gas) WINTER RECREATION ? No comments HORSE USE & PACK ANIMALS ? No comments
Zoning	? Need to add some language with regards to commercial filming (movies, commercials) o i.e.: bringing generators into non-motorized areas

ANNEX B

Meeting Notes

GUIDE-OUTFITTER REVIEW OF SCPA DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Meeting Notes
Guide Outfitter Review of Stikine Country Protected Areas
Newsletter Number 3 (February 2002) Draft Management Direction

Location: BC Parks Office Boardroom, Smithers
Date: May 10th, 2002 – 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:	**Guide Outfitters & Guests**	**Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection**
	Gerry Geraci	Dave Evict
	Wendell	Rick Keim
	Jerry Crayke	Brandin Schultz
	Bob Henderson	Larry Boudreau
	Reg Collingwood	Peter Levy
	Ray Collingwood	Hugh Markides
	Clay Collingwood	
	Carrie Collingwood	
	Brenda Nelson	
	Ron Fleming	
	Keith Conner	
	Tereaea Abou	

DISCUSSION (paraphrased GO comments/concerns in point form, responses in italics):

Structures

- In section 15, concerns with 'capping' the amount and size of structures (i.e. bed capacity), concerns with ability of GO's to hire more staff and accommodate them to serve clients and remain competitive, concerns that new large scale developments will be considered, concerns that large organizations or US based companies will come into area and squeeze out smaller operators – how would the process work?

Significant new opportunities will be offered in a public process as per government direction. Current guides are currently positioned best and have a competitive advantage with site specific knowledge and infrastructure for any bids for new opportunities. Will try to ensure that local people and First Nations have a fair crack.

- At issue is the criteria for offering new opportunities. How will it be developed and GO's should be able to comment on it. Request for wording to offer more opportunities for locals. Guides with current tenures shouldn't need to re-apply for upcoming recreational opportunities. Current rec tenures are non-exclusive.

Will check and clarify existing non-hunting and fishing recreational guiding opportunities that are currently allocated and indicate type of criteria to be used in competitive process.

Motorboats

- Concerns about closures on rivers and lakes. How will this be achieved?

Historic uses should continue and intentions are to keep motorized use at a minimum level to support current business use. No agenda to eliminate use but many members of the public are uncomfortable with current levels of motorized use. Need a broad range of experiences – nonmotorized and motorized zones to achieve objectives. Should identify a number of non-motorized lakes and put together a proposal in the draft plan.

- Lots of places now where naturally non-motorized. Boats may be invasive but suggest setting up a code of ethics on use instead of 'regulating'. Boats mainly used as transportation from A to B and safety. Removing boats can impact operations. Seek a balance as a group about use, motor size, 4 stroke engines, etc. Jet skis may be something to worry about.

There is a middle gound on this issue and will be reviewed.

BREAK

Access

1. Roads

- Concerns with potential road across Chuckachida

No interest at present, right-of-way required for sign-off at LRMP table.

2. Floatplanes

- Will general wildlife guidelines on aircraft use apply or will this park get specific ones? Some Park Use Permits request flight paths. Why so many helicopter permits?

Intent is to minimize impacts on wildlife or recreational users. Not intending to establish flight paths, just general strategies. Need ability in plan to respond to situations in future. Most helicopter companies are keeping their permits current but rarely fly there. Generally allow some helicopter opportunities but limiting heli use though not banning it.

3. Airstrips

- Is there potential to put in an airstrip at Geraci's for access and safety? Alleviate helicopter and jetboat use. Level of impact is lower with an airplane that jetboat access. Hazardous to land on Stikine.

Issues with permits for facility and subsequent government liability. Will review.

4. Trails

- What is position on brushing out new trails and maintenance? GO's maintain many trails

Each management area shows if trails or structures will be considered based on natural values. Looking for partnerships to keep open as per government direction. Current trail maintenance doesn't need to be formalized.

Angling

- Concerns with possible intent to assign rod days, classified waters, unmotorized lakes etc. Concerns with more floatplanes accessing only a few lakes open to planes may focus pressure rather than disperse it.

Just a broad statement as under review right now. Need the enabling statement in plan to allow management. Issue of wilderness experience needs to be maintained. Should deal with fish licenses upfront either extend no new licenses or provide target numbers. Define better in draft.

- What is definition of pilots dropping off clients versus angle guiding? Will need to manage that use.

Check with wording under Wildlife Act. Air transport needs a permit first. Need a working relationship between current angling guides and those seeking new opportunities.

LUNCH

Wildlife

✍ Concerns expressed with section 7 that doesn't allow for predator management. Predators may damage populations, the plateau sheep population, for example, may be vulnerable. Perhaps the management plan should reflect the overall provincial policy statements on wildlife management. Is prescribed predator management prescriptions a possibility?

The provincial conservation policy on wildlife management should be examined closer and the wordings of the predator clauses should be examined for their intent.

Habitat

✍ Concerns with not allowing habitat manipulation for purposes related to hunting. Wording in this clause doesn't accurately reflect provincial policy wording on same subject. As GO's are on quota anywise habitat enhancement doesn't help to harvest more.

Habitat manipulation must be for reasons or species at risk related to human impact or intervention. Habitat burns are common in province. Wording can be examined to more accurately reflect provincial guidelines.

✍ Hyland Post burn was to eliminate cover for predators. Was not achieved for most part but statement in plan seems to assume the burn is complete. Should the other 'face' be finished? Mixed feelings on effectiveness of burn area.

Hunting

✍ Need to improve the wording of the wildlife zones. Will Chuckachida and Pitman be on LEH this year? Lots of hunting in Chuckachida by residents.

No. Must proceed through consultation protocols. Inventories not current. Research underway into harvest data of old and new parks. Harvest quotas are generally managed on a percentage basis usually set to wildlife management units. Need to look at new additions. Allocation is complex for GO's whose territories may overlap WMU's, parks, LRMP areas, etc. The creation or addition to a park possibly results in need for re-evaluation of GO allocation and as well that consideration should also be made for resident hunters in terms of allocations as well as access equity to GO's in parks.

✍ Packers are having gas dropped of at upstream locations now. Need to watch levels of use very carefully.

Commercial boat operators will have permits this year and authorisation to store 5 drums or less of fuel at designated caches. Other conditions apply. Should be monitored.

Reporting Forms

✍ Duplication exists. Not being utilized for anything.

WLAP staff instructed to combine reporting forms. Fish and Wildlife for Tatlatui will probably remain in Prince George.

Aquatics

✍ What is reason and rationale behind identifying waters not to be affected by angling?

Will clarify intent.

Tatlatui Structures

- Number of structures is not a good management tool. Concerns with casting anything in stone. This may limit the guide's ability to do business. May need more guides per client in future, for example.

Need to have intent reflected in plan in order to manage structures. Will look at this issue.

Horse Use

- Which trails require prior authozization? Too much administration to control horse use. Are weed free certified hay cubes acceptable?

Need to clarify which trails. Authorization is needed to control use, what feed is used, keeping out of ER, etc. Weed free hay cubes may be acceptable.

Zoning

- Need to look at narrowing down zoning to applicable places where development may proceed rather than broad locations as currently described.

Other

- GO's as the economic generators should have a say. The plan may recognize GO business in general but erodes activities required to sustain them in the fine print. Need to delineate historic uses i.e. Tahltan use of Cold Fish site prior to Tommy Walker.

Historic uses expected to continue. Can better recognize importance of GO's in the introductory sections of the plan. The Tahltan's contribute to the plan as part of a joint management committee and have had input into the plan vision, for example. Note that it is a long term plan and will need to manage for future in everyone's best interest.

ANNEX C

Public Respondents

RESPONDENTS TO SURVEY
&
WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Dan Pakula
Box 47
Telegraph Creek, BC
V0J 2W0

Mel Haggard
RR1, Site 33, Comp 9
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Resident
Box 34
Nanoose Bay, BC
V9P 9J9

Finnemore Residence
2681 Fulford-Ganges Road
Saltspring Island, BC
V8K 1Z3

David L. Cook
114 – 904 Lytton Street
North Vancouver, BC
V7H 2A4
cookeco@hotmail.com

Eddy Jang
211 Margolia Drive
Saltspring Island, BC
V8K 1C9

Jim Danish
Box 128
Fraser Lake, BC
V0J 1S0
danishaviation@bvgroup.net

M. Schat
Site 25, Comp 29, RR1
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Jim Pojar
Box 3089
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Les Husband
6369 Berger Street
Prince George, BC
V0J 2N0

Grant Hazelwood
2711 Skeena Street
Terrace, BC
V8G 3K3

J, Benoit
Box 120
Iskut, BC
V0J 1K0

Terri O'Neill
Box 2214
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

R. Chipeniuk
Box 2557
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0
chipsaw@magma.ca

Keith Monroe
23270 Flynn Road
Prince George, BC
V2N 6H8

P. Bartemucci / P. Williston
Box 4979
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Resident
5270 Bostock Place
Kamloops, BC
V2C 6A7

Don Parminter
Box 2205
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

John Grant
277 East 24th
Vancouver, BC
V5V 1Z7
Geeman53@hotmail.com

Johnny Mikes
9571 Emerald Drive
Whistler, BC
V0N 1B9
johnny@whooshnet.com

Donald Reid
Box 4716
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Doug Webb
Steelhead Society
4716 McConell Avenue
Terrace, BC
V8G 2G8

The Driftwood Foundation
RR #2, S-57, C-19
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Jim Hinchliffe
Northwest Power Boat Assoc.
Box 4276
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Dr. V. Geist
Box 1294 St. A.
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 7M2
geistyr@cedar.albernie.net

Love Bros. & Lee Ltd.
RR #1, Site N, Kispiox Road
Hazelton, BC
V0J 1Y0

Ivar Larson, President
BC Wildlife Federation
#303 – 19292 – 60th Avenue
Surrey, BC V3S 3M2
wildlife@bcwf.com

Sheila Peters & Lynn Shervill
RR #2, S-55, C-2
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Ed Mankelow
Chair – Parks & WLU Comm.
????

Vicky Husband
Conservation Chair
576 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1M3
info@sierraclubbc.org

David & Claire Oppenheim
Box 86
Hariot Bay, BC
V0P 1H0
oppenhei@oberon.ark.com

Eva Riccius
Park Watch Coordinator
502 – 475 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2B3
info@cpaws.org

Maggie M. Paquet
4248 – 8th Avenue
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7S8
maggie_paquet@telus.net

Rosamund Pojar
Box 3089
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Len Vanderstar
(via email)

John Baker, Director
BC Floatplane Association
Box ???
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Myron Olson
Director – BCFPA
21154 Crush Crescent
Langley, BC V2Y 2R4
Molson11@shaw.ca

Bev Ramey
Conservation Chair
Federation of BC Naturalists
??????

Gilham Arnold
Friends of the Stikine
Box 1522
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0
gil_arnold@uniserve.com

Dirk Septer
Box 1000
Whaletown, BC
V0P 1Z0

Bristal Fostor
Friends of Ecological Reserves
131 Thomas Road
Saltspring Island, BC
V8K 1R2

Elizabeth Ball
?????
lizball@paralynx.com

Rick Marshall, BSc
Bag 5000
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0
rick.marshall@gems8.gov.bc.ca

Rod Bianco
Box 476
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Julie Stauffer
Communications Coordinator
576 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1M3
Julie@sierraclubbc.org

Monty Bassett
Out Yonder Productions
????
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Konrad & Gerda Feldman
Box 675
Burns Lake, BC
V0J 1E0

Evelyn Hamilton, R.P. Bio
351 Simcoe Street
Victoria, BC
????

Peggy Frank
Friends of Ecological Reserves
Box 8477
Victoria, BC
V8W 3S1

Thomas Nichols
???
tnichols@vcn.bc.ca

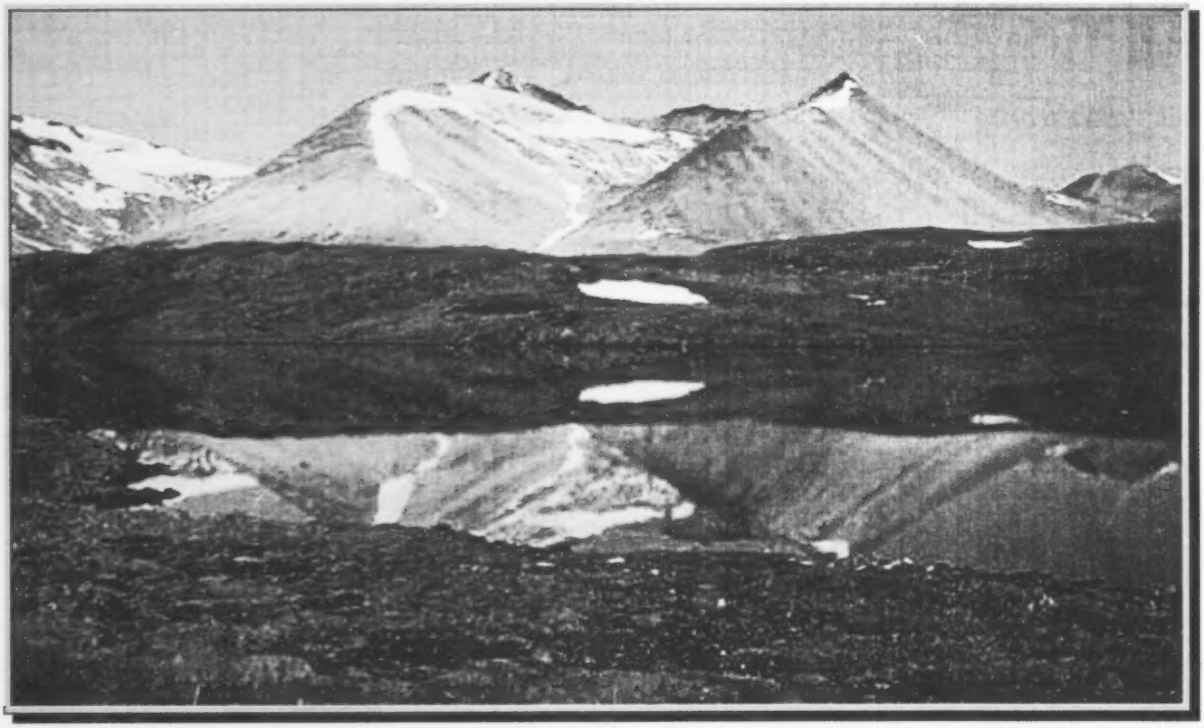
Ian R. Dick
2710 Benedick Road
Kelowna, BC
V1Z 1T9

Stikine Country Protected Areas

~ Draft Management Direction ~

Public Comment Booklet

February 2002



To Complete this Public Comment Booklet, Please Refer to the:

STIKINE COUNTRY PROTECTED AREAS – NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3

~ DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION ~

March 2002

You are encouraged to complete this public comment booklet and return it directly to the BC Parks Office in Smithers by April 15, 2002

BC Parks – Skeena District
Bag 5000
Smithers, BC
V0J 2X0

BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

This *Public Comment Booklet* provides the reader with an opportunity to provide comments, ideas and suggestions about BC Parks Draft of Management Direction for the Stikine Country Protected Areas – which is available along with this public comment booklet. While this booklet highlights the general management direction and objectives for each section of the draft report, the reader is encouraged to complete this questionnaire while reviewing the larger, and more detailed Draft Management Direction document.

Once you have reviewed Newsletter No. 3 and acquainted yourself with the Draft Management Direction for Stikine Country Protected Areas document, this comment booklet should take you about 30 – 45 minutes to complete.

Please note the accompanying Draft Management Direction, is a working paper and is provided for discussion purposes. This draft document will be adjusted to reflect the feedback we receive during our March 2002 Open Houses and Workshops as well as written submissions generated by this public comment booklet.

We would like to emphasise that your input, ideas and suggestions are most important to this planning process and that BC Parks is committed ensuring that every idea and suggestion receives serious review and recognition.

Instructions for Completing the Public Comment Booklet

To follow in this public comment booklet are a series of questions. Each question is prefaced by a brief review of a *General Management Direction* for each of the topic areas. You are then asked if you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions. Please circle one of the four options provided – for example:

STRONGLY AGREE **(AGREE)** **DISAGREE** **STRONGLY DISAGREE**

Please use the following definitions when deciding your answers:

- **STRONGLY AGREE** – Very High Priority, Very Important Element
- **AGREE** – Good Level of Priority, Somewhat Important
- **DISAGREE** – Low Level of Priority, Not Very Important
- **STRONGLY DISAGREE** – No Priority at all, of No Importance

You are then encouraged to provide any further comments, ideas and suggestions in the space provided for each question. For additional details, please refer back to the corresponding section in Newsletter No. 3 & the *Draft Management Direction* document.

Thank you in advance for you suggestions and ideas. Only by working together can we ensure that our precious system of protected areas are managed for the long term – while providing benefits to the current generation of British Columbians.

General Management Direction Questions

1 Managing the System of Protected Areas

General Management Direction

Combined, the Stikine Country Protected Areas offer a wide range of natural, cultural and recreational features that are representative of northern boreal landscapes. The Stikine Country Protected Areas will be managed as a system of protected areas rather than as individual protected areas. The conservation and recreation mandates of BC Parks will be applied to the system as a whole, focusing conservation management where appropriate and focusing recreational activities where appropriate within the system.

Objective:

- *To conserve natural and cultural values in the Stikine Country Protected Area System while allowing appropriate recreational activities to occur.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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2 Managing Ecosystems

An ecosystem can be defined as:

❖ *All living and non-living components of a system and the processes that link them in time and space.*

General Management Direction

The Spatsizi Ecosystem and the Mt. Edziza Ecosystem provide a framework for ecological management within the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Ecological issues in protected areas and portions of protected areas west of Highway 37 will be managed as one unit within the context of the Mt. Edziza Ecosystem. Ecological issues in protected areas and portions of protected areas east of Highway 37 will be managed as one unit within the context of the Spatsizi Ecosystem.

Do you agree with the general management direction?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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3 Managing with the Community

First Nations

General Management Direction

BC Parks will work with First Nations to ensure that aboriginal and treaty rights are accommodated and that First Nations' interests are fully considered in management of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

Objective:

❖ To ensure that ministry and government policy on consultation with First Nations is implemented.

~ For additional details, please refer back to Newsletter No. 3 and the Draft Management Direction document ~

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Local Communities, Stakeholders and the Public

General Management Direction

BC Parks will work with local communities, stakeholders and the public to ensure that there are ongoing opportunities to provide advice on park management and to receive updates on park related information.

Objective:

- *To foster communication between BC Parks and local communities, stakeholders and the public on management and opportunities in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Managing Cultural Heritage Values

General Management Direction

Protecting cultural heritage values is an important priority in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.

Objectives:

- *To manage and conserve cultural/ heritage values.*
- *To facilitate the exercise of aboriginal rights and reconnection of First Nations to the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*
- *To increase public and visitor awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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4 Land & Geology

General Management Direction

The landforms and geologic features of the Stikine Country protected areas provide the structural definition that shapes the Spatsizi and Mt. Edziza greater ecosystems. Conservation of significant geologic features will focus on interpretation and protection from physical disturbance by humans.

Objective:

- *To protect the structural and functional integrity of significant geologic features.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

5 Water

General Management Direction

Water quality, quantity and flow will continue to be regulated by natural events. Recreational and commercial use in the protected area system will be managed to ensure impacts to natural water quality are negligible.

Objective:

- *To protect and maintain the natural quality, quantity and flow of rivers, creeks and lakes in the Stikine Country Protected Areas within their natural range of variability.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

6 Vegetation

General Management Direction

Natural disturbances such as fire, forest insects, wind and forest diseases are considered essential ecosystem components contributing to the vegetation landscape and natural ecosystem functioning. The Stikine Country Protected Areas system is large enough to accommodate natural disturbance events within the system. Vegetation management will focus on maintaining natural disturbance events and minimizing impacts of human activities.

Objectives:

- *To maintain and monitor naturally occurring vegetation patterns and natural disturbance events.*
- *To manage vegetation features and disturbances within a larger regional context.*
- *To protect rare and sensitive plants and plant communities.*
- *To minimize human disturbance to native plants and plant communities.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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7 Wildlife

General Management Direction

The priority of wildlife management in the Stikine Country Protected Areas is to maintain representative large-mammal predator-prey systems in a healthy and viable state, allowing for natural fluctuations in wildlife populations. Two large mammal predator-prey systems are recognized within the Stikine Country Protected Areas: one centred in the Spatsizi Ecosystem; and one centred in the Mt. Edziza Ecosystem.

Objective:

- *To maintain naturally occurring, viable large mammal predator-prey systems in the Stikine Country Protected Areas in a mostly natural state.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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8 Habitat Management

General Management Direction

Vegetation in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system is in a largely natural state; therefore, natural disturbances will be the main processes driving wildlife habitat dynamics. Habitat management for individual species will be secondary to management of an overall natural wildlife habitat mosaic. Acquiring more information on distribution and quality of wildlife habitat throughout the system is a high priority.

Objectives:

- *To manage wildlife habitat as part of a natural vegetation mosaic driven by natural disturbances.*
- *To identify significant wildlife habitat.*
- *To protect critical or sensitive habitat from human disturbance.*
- *To protect rare/sensitive species habitats from human disturbance.*
- *To maintain important caribou ranges to contribute to conservation of caribou in British Columbia.*
- *To incorporate First Nations traditional knowledge in wildlife habitat management.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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9 Population Management

General Management Direction

The priority of wildlife population management in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system is to maintain viable populations of all large mammal species while allowing for natural population fluctuations. Accurate monitoring of wildlife population numbers is a priority for ensuring viability of populations. First Nations traditional activities such as hunting and trapping are an important component of the wildlife system. Non-First Nations recreational hunting and guided hunting will continue to be managed more conservatively than in adjacent areas.

Objectives:

- *To monitor population status of the main large mammal species (caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goats, moose, grizzly bear) in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*
- *To manage small and moderate-sized wildlife species as intact viable populations.*
- *To continue to improve the level of understanding of wildlife population dynamics in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*
- *To maintain First Nations traditional hunting and trapping activities that are consistent with conservation and public safety objectives.*
- *To provide high quality wilderness-based hunting opportunities for resident and non-resident hunters that are consistent with conservation objectives.*
- *To maintain trapping opportunities that are consistent with conservation objectives.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

10 Rare and Sensitive Species

General Management Direction

For rare and sensitive wildlife species, the role of the Stikine Country Protected Area system is to provide a large core area of habitat that is for the most part undisturbed by humans. The focus is on understanding, monitoring and maintaining habitat and dynamics of rare species.

Objectives:

- *To protect known rare and sensitive species and their habitat.*
- *To increase the information base on rare and sensitive species.*
- *To monitor population status of grizzly bears, wolverines and fisher.*
- *To establish a baseline monitoring program for amphibians in an ecosystem relatively undisturbed by humans.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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11 Wildlife Movements

General Management Direction

The Stikine Country Protected Areas system is a core protected area for large mammal species in the region. BC Parks will work with other agencies to coordinate management of known areas of use outside of protected area boundaries and to maintain wildlife movement corridors along the Pitman and Chukachida rivers.

Objective:

~ FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE REFER BACK TO NEWSLETTER NO. 3 AND THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION DOCUMENT ~

- *To coordinate with other agencies and First Nations to minimize impacts on Stikine Country Protected Areas' wildlife moving beyond protected area boundaries.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Wildlife/Human Interactions

Objectives:

- *To protect wildlife populations during sensitive seasons such as winter and the spring birthing season.*
- *To minimize habitat disturbance.*
- *To minimize human/bear interactions.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions for wildlife movements and wildlife/human interactions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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12 Aquatics

General Management Direction

The management priority for fish is to conserve natural fish population diversity, distribution and dynamics throughout the Stikine Country Protected Areas waters. Fish stocking will not be considered unless populations are declining severely and population viability is threatened due to human-caused disturbances. Stocking will not be considered to enhance angling opportunities. Determining the status and maintaining a viable population of bull trout is a priority.

Objectives:

- *To ensure the natural functioning of fish populations.*
- *To provide a range of recreational angling opportunities that have low impacts on fish populations.*
- *To quantify non-guided angling activity and harvest.*
- *To manage angling and angling-guide activities.*
- *To minimize and mitigate impacts of increased angling pressure on protected area fish populations due to potential improved road access.*
- *To safeguard the opportunity of First Nations to take fish for ceremonial or sustenance purposes.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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13 Scientific Research and Education

General Management Direction

Promote scientific research and education initiatives that are consistent with priorities established for the Stikine Country Protected Area system.

Objective:

- *To collect information on the natural and cultural features of the Stikine Country Protected Areas.*

Do you agree with the objectives and associated strategies?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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14 Access

Floatplanes

General Management Direction

Floatplanes are recognized as an historic and important mode of access to the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Air access to the protected areas will continue to be primarily by floatplane with small numbers of helicopter drop-offs and pick-ups. New modes of air access will not be allowed, and air access will be carefully managed to maintain natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values.

Objectives:

- *To provide a level of floatplane and skiplane access that allows visitors to enjoy the Stikine Country Protected Areas without unacceptable impacts on fish and wildlife populations or the wilderness experience of other users.*
- *To provide low levels of helicopter access for limited purposes.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Roads

General Management Direction

New roads will not be allowed within the protected areas, except for in Mt. Edziza, Pitman River and Chukachida protected areas as directed by the Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine LRMP, to accommodate mineral access, or near the Highway 37 bridge to accommodate frontcountry type developments. Additional road access into the Stikine Country Protected Areas will be discouraged except where such access is compatible with protected area management objectives. Where new roads or improvements to existing roads are proposed adjacent to protected areas, BC Parks will work co-operatively with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts on natural, cultural heritage and recreation values in protected areas. Where increased access is compatible with protected area objectives, BC Parks will seek to optimize benefits while minimizing negative impacts.

Objective:

- *To coordinate management of land-based access to the Stikine Country Protected Areas with other agencies and First Nations to ensure that access does not impair the natural or cultural values of the protected areas.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Snowmobiles

General Management Direction

Access to the Stikine Country Protected Areas by snow machines will generally be restricted and require specific authorization. Limited snowmobile access for First Nations traditional uses, for access along the Klastline Trail, for traplines holders, and for guide-outfitters for camp maintenance will continue.

Objective:

- *To provide for limited snowmachine access while avoiding unacceptable impacts to wildlife populations and other protected area values.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

15 Facilities

Structures

General Management Direction

Structures will be carefully managed and controlled. Shelters, including cabins and tent frames or other structures, will be considered only where consistent with zone and management area objectives. Generally, physical commercial infrastructure (e.g.: roads, lodgings, staging areas, etc.) will be directed outside of protected area boundaries when feasible in order to minimize impacts within Protected Areas. Present structures can be maintained, provided they are still required.

Objective:

- To keep infrastructure development to a minimum level appropriate for wilderness protected areas.

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Trails, Routes and Campsites

General Management Direction

BC Parks will ensure maintenance of main trails within the protected area system. Secondary trails and new trails, routes and campsites will only be established or maintained to meet specific recreational goals. All new trails will have to undergo the BC Parks impact assessment process. Development, maintenance and use of all trails, routes and campsites will be consistent with zoning and conservation goals of the protected areas. BC Parks will seek to work with other organizations and the private sector to maintain or upgrade trails.

Objective:

To maintain trails, routes and campsites at a minimum wilderness standard. If use levels have unacceptable impacts consider improving, relocating or upgrading trails, or alternatively, closing them.

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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16 Recreation

General Management Direction

Recreation management will focus on providing a range of recreation experiences in a wilderness setting. Experiences will range from facility-based recreation near Highway 37 to recreation experiences where quiet and solitude prevail. Recreational use must not compromise the ecological values of the protected areas, and must respect cultural heritage values. Appropriate recreational activities include hiking, canoeing, mountaineering, rafting, horse travel, hunting, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing and motor/jet boating; some of these activities will be restricted to certain areas. Limited snowmobiling use will continue in support of First Nations traditional use, trapping and camp maintenance for guide-outfitters. Competitive recreational events are not considered appropriate for these protected areas. Authorizations for other recreational activities will be guided by general management direction and vision for the protected area system.

Objectives:

- *To provide high quality wilderness recreation opportunities to experienced backcountry visitors.*
- *To ensure that recreational activities do not have unacceptable impacts on the fish and wildlife populations, cultural heritage values, rare and endangered plant species and plant communities, and physical features in the Stikine Country Protected Areas system.*
- *To enhance the backcountry visitors' awareness of First Nations and pioneer cultural heritage, natural history, wildlife etiquette, and bear encounter avoidance techniques.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Backcountry Hiking and Mountaineering

General Management Direction

Backcountry hiking and mountaineering will continue while minimizing impacts on natural, cultural heritage and recreation values. Emphasis will be placed on providing high quality wilderness experiences to visitors.

Objective:

- *To provide high quality wilderness backcountry hiking and mountaineering opportunities.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Motorboating

Motorboating includes jet and propeller driven boats.

General Management Direction

Motorboating is recognized as an ongoing use on many rivers and lakes within the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Since maintaining a wilderness experience is a priority, mortorboating use will be carefully managed to ensure that impacts on natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values are avoided and conflicts with other users are minimized. Other types of motorboating such as jet-skis, hovercraft and air propelled watercraft will not be allowed.

Objectives – Rivers:

- *To provide motorboating opportunities to continue consistent with acceptable types and levels of use.*
- *To provide high quality wilderness motorboating opportunities to experienced boaters.*

Objective – Lakes

- To provide motorboating opportunities to continue consistent with the acceptable types and levels of use.

~ FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE REFER BACK TO NEWSLETTER NO. 3 AND THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION DOCUMENT ~

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Floatcraft

General Management Direction

Canoeing and rafting will continue as self-supported wilderness activities. Impact monitoring will continue to assess the impacts of use at popular sites.

Objective:

❖ *To provide high quality private and commercial wilderness rafting and canoeing opportunities to experienced boaters.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Winter Recreation

General Management Direction

Winter recreation will be non-motorized except for special situations. Winter recreational use, that does not have unacceptable impacts on wildlife, will be encouraged within Stikine River, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness and Tatlatui Parks. Habitat mapping will be used to direct winter use to suitable areas away from important winter ranges, and the impacts of winter recreation on wildlife will be monitored. Snowmobile use will continue to be restricted to limited First Nations traditional use, trapline use, camp maintenance and recreational use on the Klastline Trail in the Klastline Area.

Objective:

- *To provide safe non-motorized winter recreation opportunities that do not have unacceptable impacts on wildlife or their critical winter range.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Horse Use and Pack Animals

General Management Direction

Horses are recognized as an acceptable means of travel within the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Other species of pack animals will continue to be prohibited in recognition of the risk to wildlife species. Use levels will need to be monitored for impacts to trails and vegetation and controls implemented if necessary.

Objectives:

- *To minimize the risk of disease transmission from pack animals to wildlife.*
- *To prevent unacceptable impacts from occurring due to horse use in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

Other Recreational Uses

General Management Direction

Mechanized and motorized ground travel of any nature, except those provided for in this plan, are generally considered to be incompatible with the wilderness values of the Stikine Country Protected Areas. Commercial or competitive sporting events and aerial sports, such as but not limited to hang-gliding and para-penting, are considered inappropriate with the wilderness and conservation values of the Stikine Country Protected Areas.

Objective:

❖ *To prohibit mechanized or motorized uses other than motorboats and floatplanes.*

Do you agree with the general management direction, objectives and associated actions?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

17 Commercial Recreational Opportunity and Tenure Management

General Management Direction

Commercial opportunities will be made available using a fair and open process. Exclusive opportunities will normally be awarded following a competitive process. Exceptions are for activities authorized under the Wildlife Act for guide outfitters, fish guides and trappers. BC Parks will work with First Nations and local communities to ensure that, to the extent practical, new competitive opportunities are in line with the capacity and readiness of local entrepreneurs. In general, commercial and public opportunities will be in balance where use levels are limited. Levels of public and commercial use in areas of hunting, fishing & trapping are regulated pursuant to the Wildlife Act.

Do you agree with the general management direction?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Do you agree with the list of potential commercial opportunities?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

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Are there other opportunities you think should be considered?

Comments: _____

~ For additional details, please refer back to Newsletter No. 3 and the Draft Management Direction document ~

18 ZONING AND MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Draft Management Direction outlines proposed Management Areas. A summary table is presented outlining natural and cultural heritage values, existing facilities and recreation values, zoning, existing motorboat and floatplane use, direction on new facilities and other direction.

Do you agree with the draft direction for the Management Areas?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

→ Please feel free to add any additional comments, ideas or suggestions on the following page or by submitting your comments on additional paper.

Thank you very much for your ideas and recommendations – it is greatly appreciated. If you have any other suggestions, please do not hesitate to send them directly to the BC Parks office in Smithers and/or phone Peter Levy at (250) 847-7320

The results of this public comment information gathering exercise will be available for viewing and/or downloading at the following website:

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/stikine/stikine.htm

Other Ideas, Suggestions & Comments:

~ For additional details, please refer back to Newsletter No. 3 and the Draft Management Direction document ~

~ For additional details, please refer back to Newsletter No. 3 and the Draft Management Direction document ~